COOL
10
GOBLIN SLAYER
ART:
KOUSUKE KUROSE
ORIGINAL STORY:
KUMO KAGYU
CHARACTER DESIGN:
NOBORU KANNATUKI
PARENTAL ADVISORY
WARNING
EXPLICIT CONTENT

GOBLIN SLAYER
10
Art:
Kousuke Kurose
Original Story:
Kumo Kagyu
Character Design:
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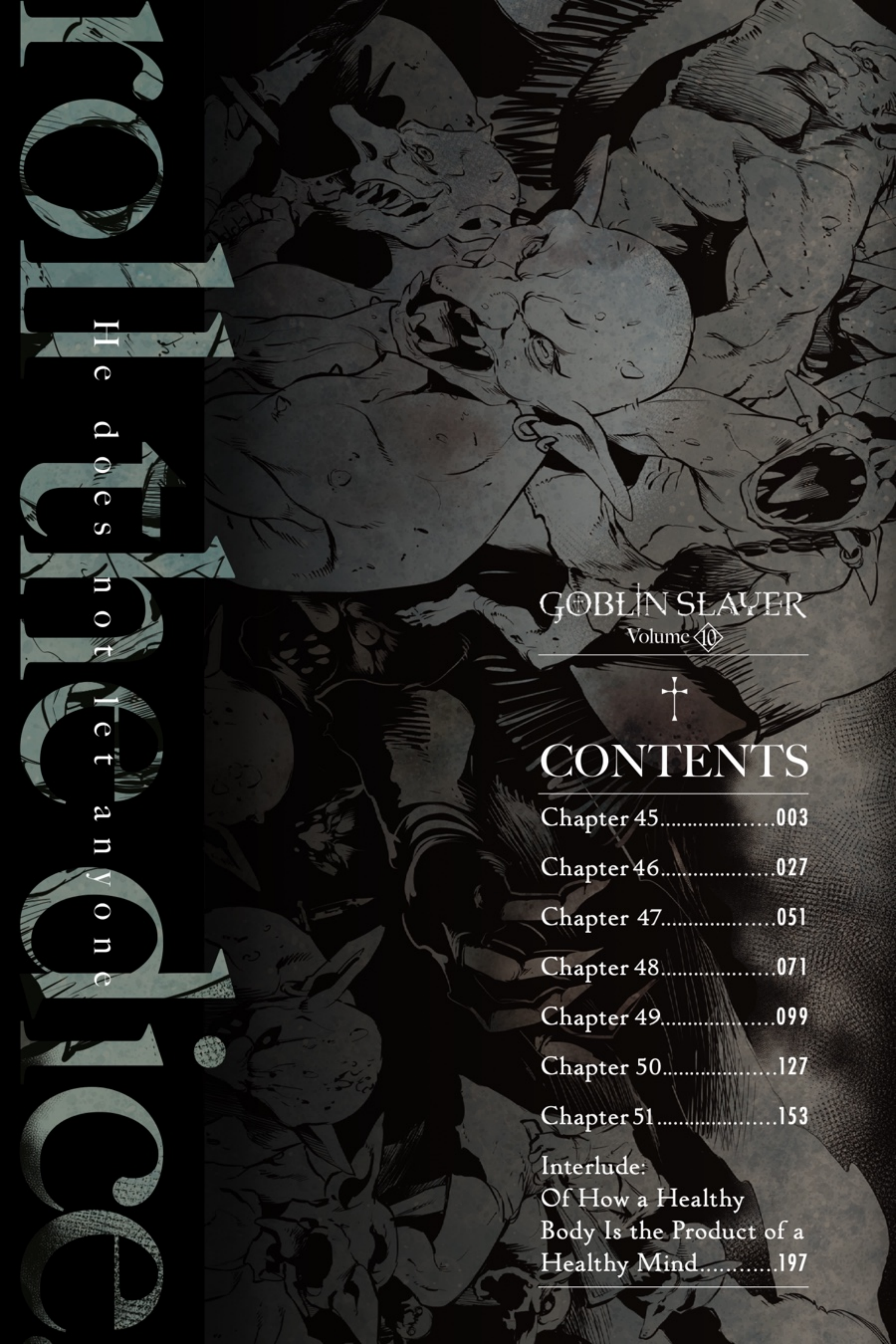

GOBLIN SLAYER

Volume 10

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OH! MASTER ADVENTURER, YOU'VE RETURNED!

TELL US! HOW DID YOU FARE ON THE MOUNTAIN?

DON'T TELL ME— HAS ONE OF YOUR NUMBER BEEN INJURED?

I... WE...

!?

NO. WE...

WE HAVEN'T FOUGHT THEM YET...

YOU HAVEN'T ...?

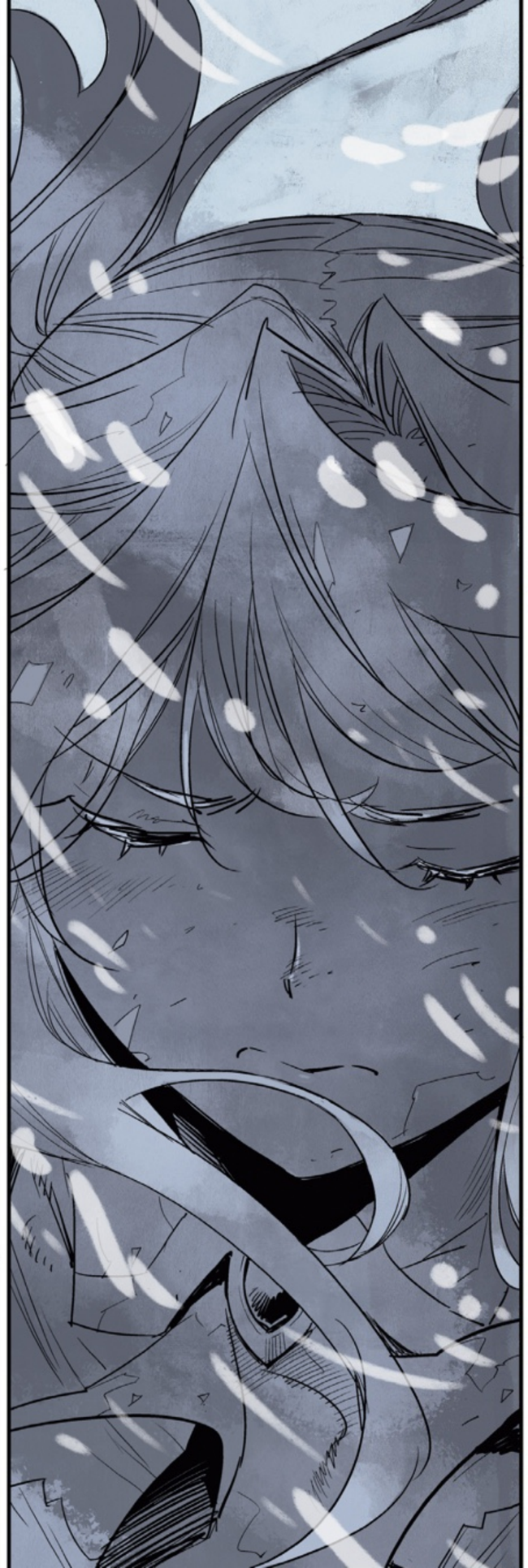
COULD YOU...

.....

THEN IN THAT CASE...

...WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING ...?

CHAPTER 45



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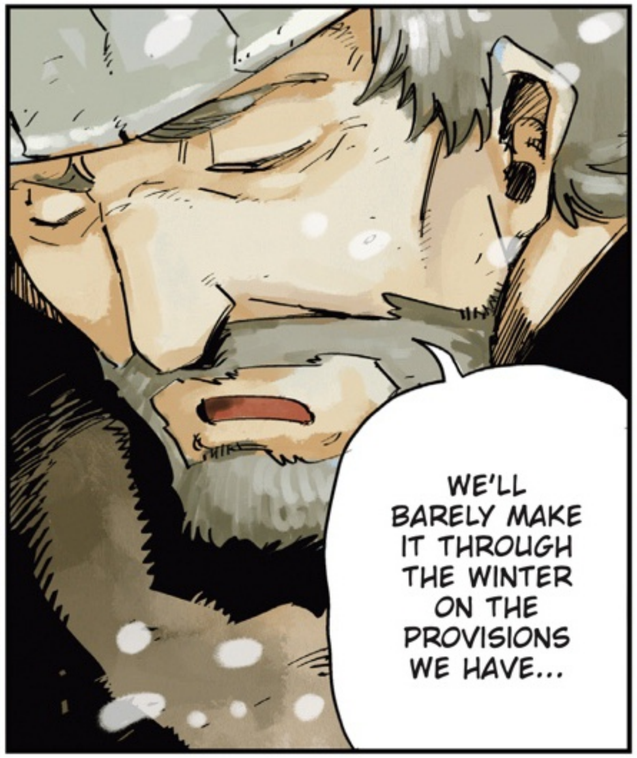

WE'LL BARELY MAKE IT THROUGH THE WINTER ON THE PROVISIONS WE HAVE...

WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO SPARE SOME FUEL OR WATER, BUT NOT MUCH...

...GIVE US...
...A BIT MORE OF YOUR FOOD?
PLEASE ...

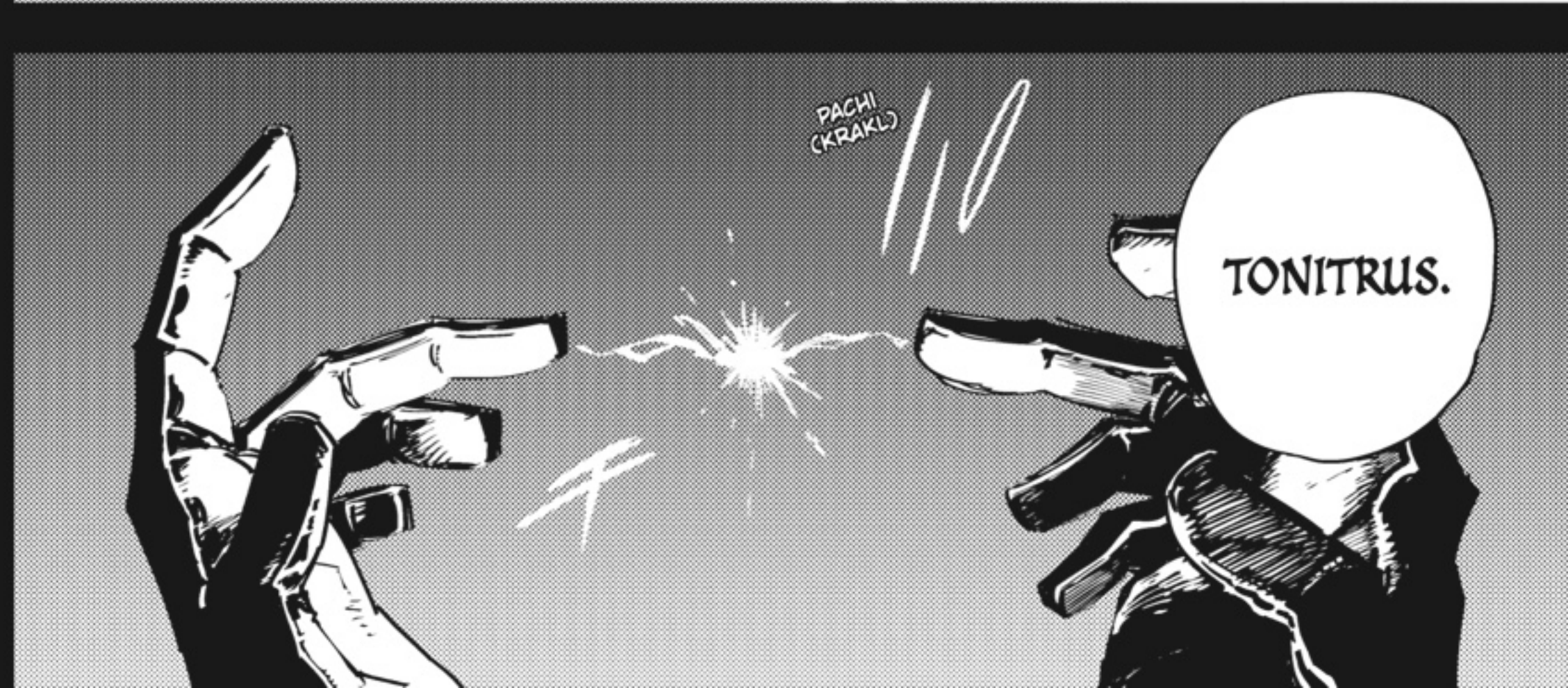
MAYBE WE SHOULD HAVE BROUGHT MORE SUPPLIES TO BEGIN WITH...?

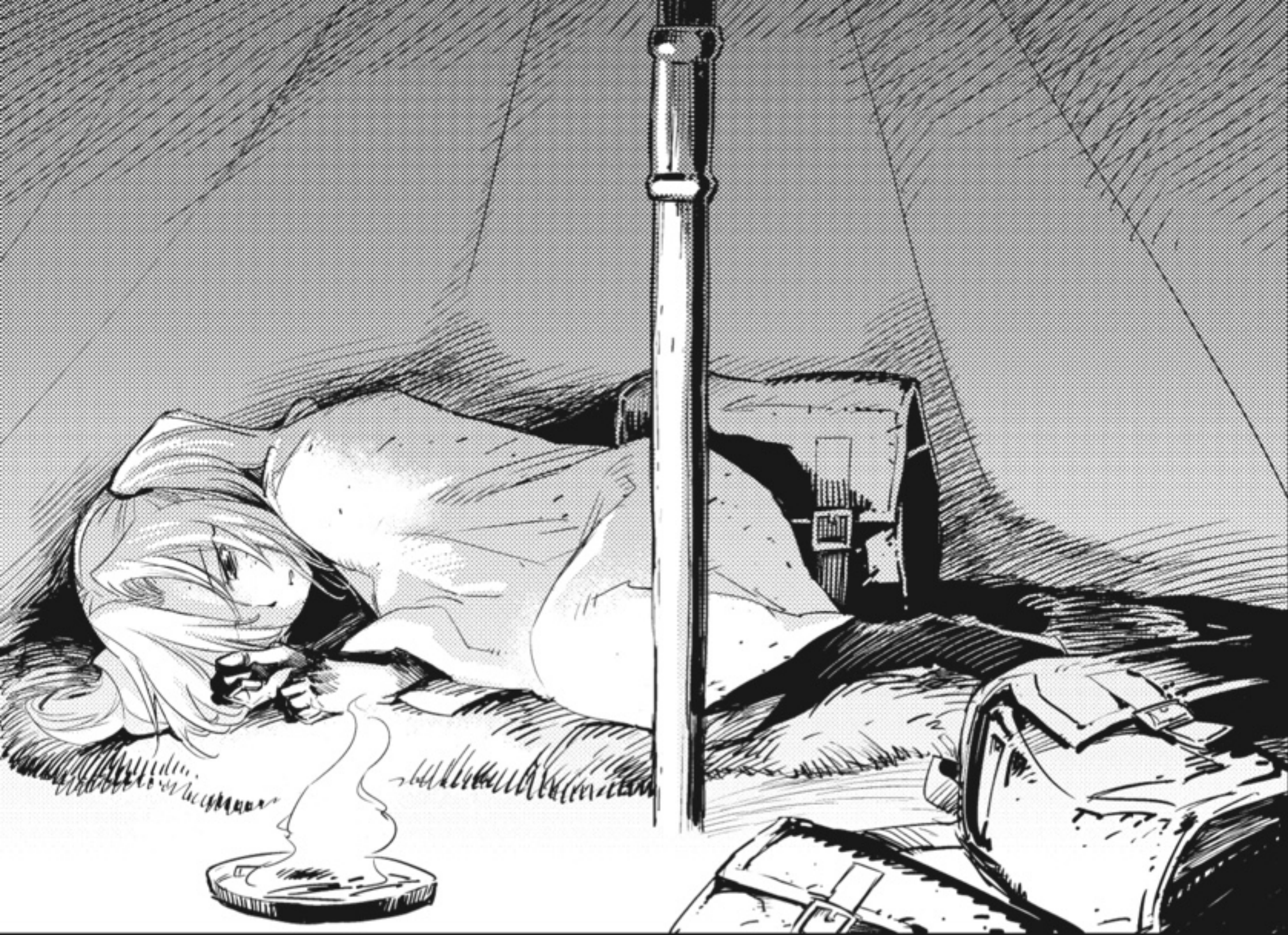
(GAKU (SHUDDER))

EVERYONE WILL BE...
JUST... A LITTLE FARTHER...
ALMOST THERE...

DOSA (WHUMPH)

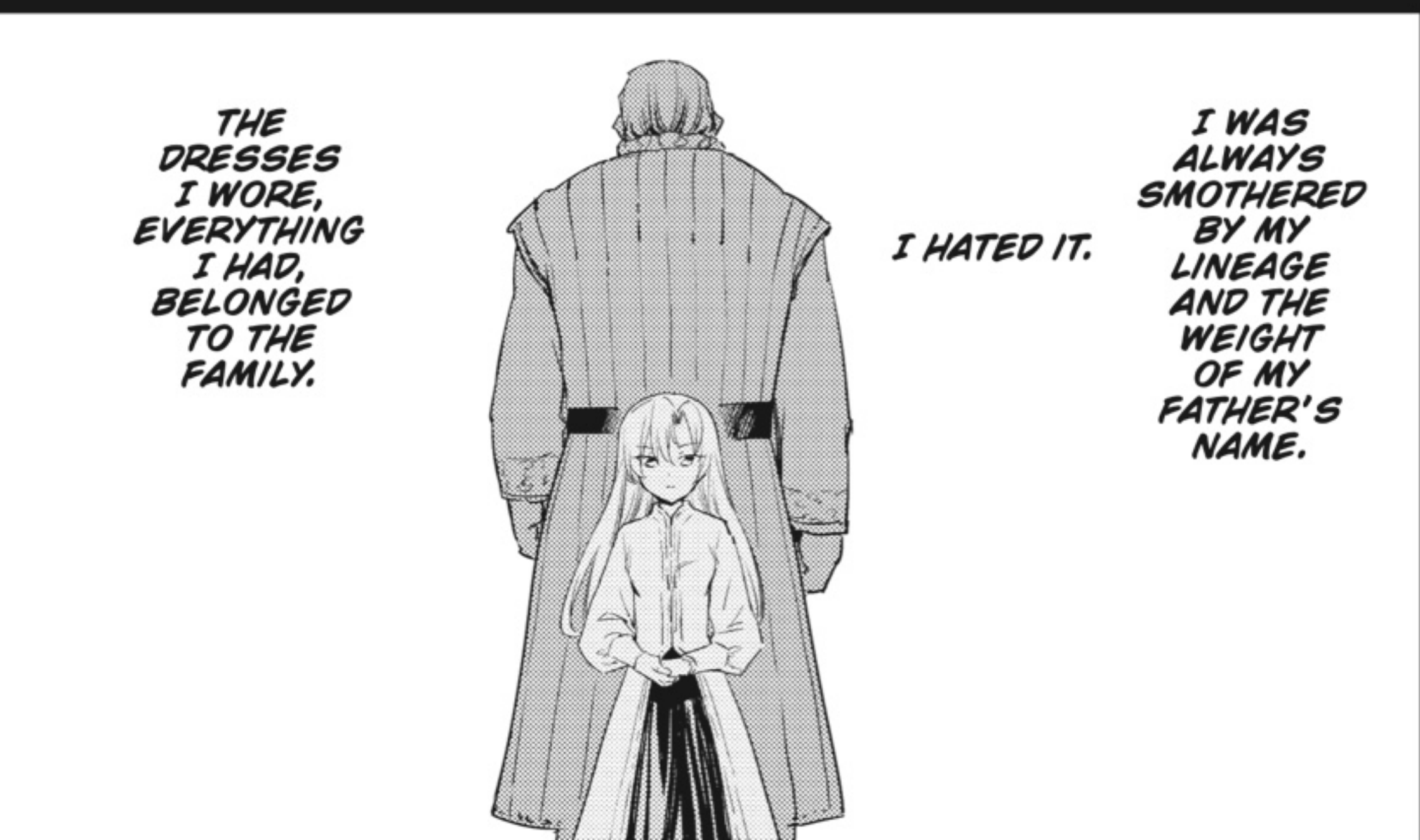
I...
...HAVE TO...
... REST.


PACHI (KRAKL)
TONITRUS.



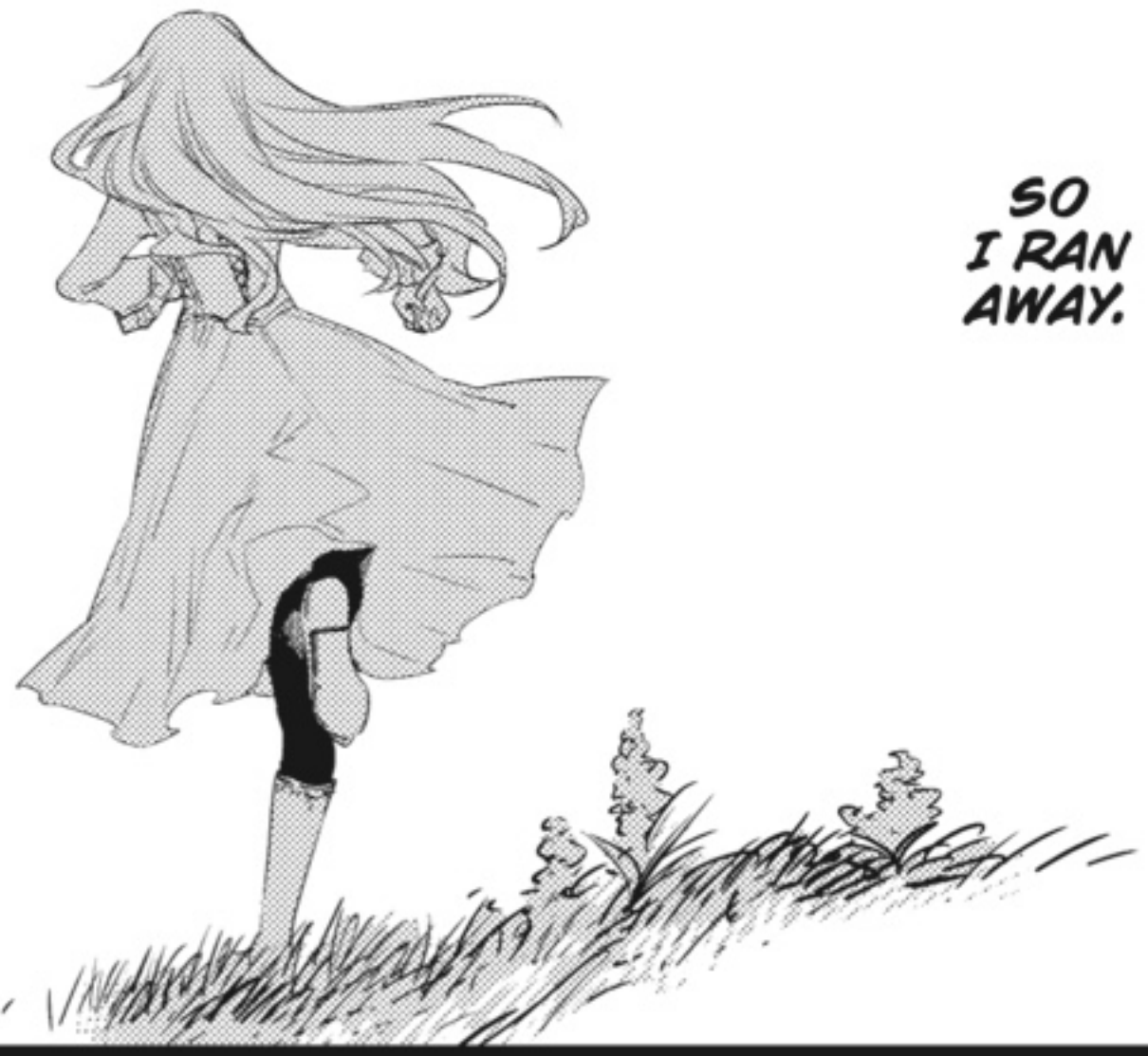
I DON'T UNDER-STAND...
HOW?
HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?

SO TIRED...


THE DRESSES I WORE, EVERYTHING I HAD, BELONGED TO THE FAMILY.
I HATED IT.
I WAS ALWAYS SMOTHERED BY MY LINEAGE AND THE WEIGHT OF MY FATHER'S NAME.

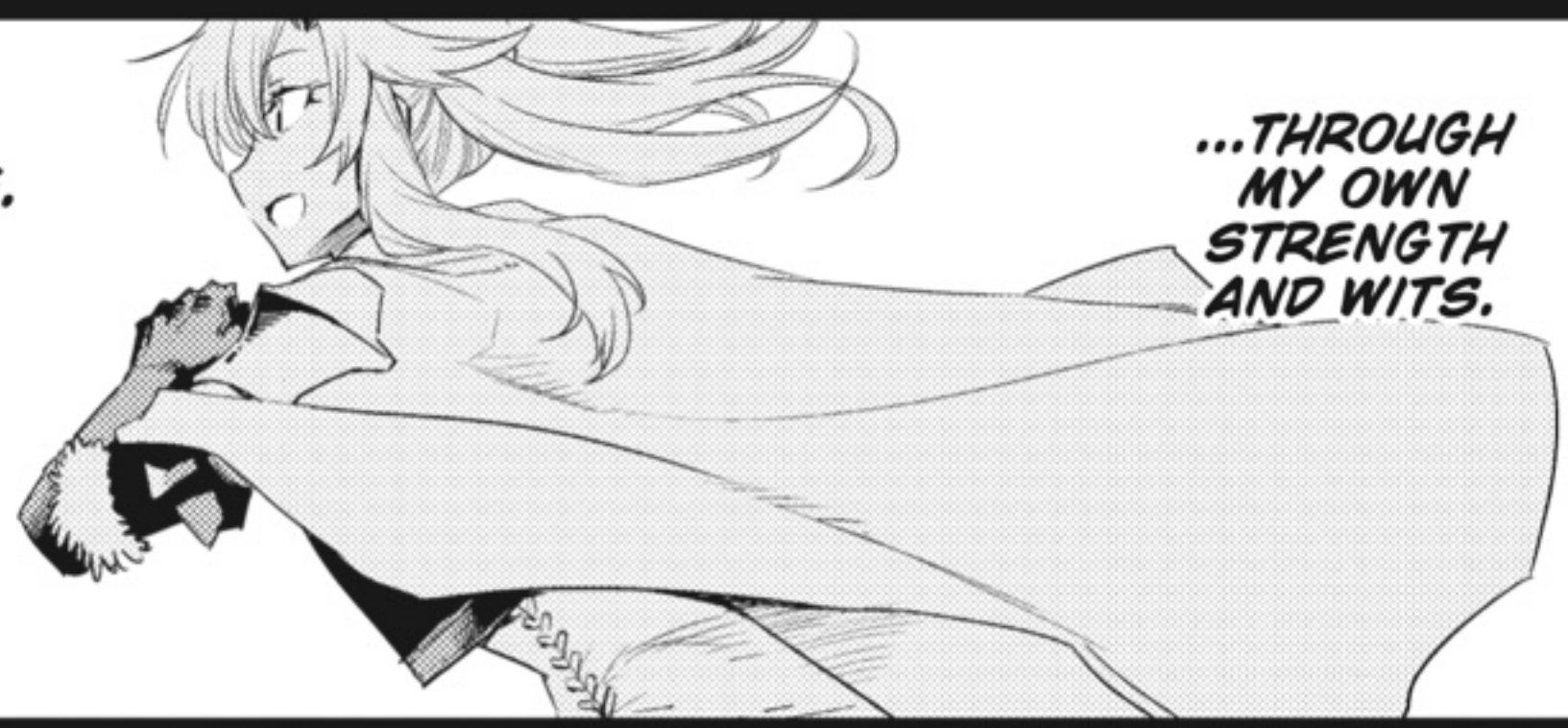
I WOULD WRITE MY LEGEND...

SO I RAN AWAY.



I WAS SO SURE.

...THROUGH MY OWN STRENGTH AND WITS.



WHAT MADE ME THINK I COULD JUST CONJURE UP AS GREAT A LEGACY ALL BY MYSELF?

MY FAMILY HAS EXISTED FOR GENERATIONS— CENTURIES.

...AND EVERYONE WHO GOT CAUGHT UP IN THIS...

...BECAUSE OF MY POWERLESSNESS.

FATHER...

...MOTHER...

BASA (FLAP)

BASA

?

EEYAAAAGH!

...!?

YEEK... AHH...

WH-WHAT ...?

GETA (CACKLE)

GETA

GETA

GETA

GETA

GETA

GETA

GETA

!!
GURA (WHOOMPH)
BASA (FLAP)
WHAT'S GOING ON? WHAT'S HAPPENING ...!?
NO!
BUSU (FSSH)
BUSU
EEK!
!!

KOFF!
KOFF!

HFF...
HFF...

GETA
GETA (CACKLE)

GETA
GETA (CACKLE)

NOOOOOOOOOO!!
OH...
PLEASE
...

ST—

STAY BACK!!

!!

GU

IT WON'T COME LOOSE ...!

BIKI (KRKL) ビキ

GU (TUG)

HA HA

NGH

WHY? COME ON...

WHY CAN'T I GET IT OUT!?

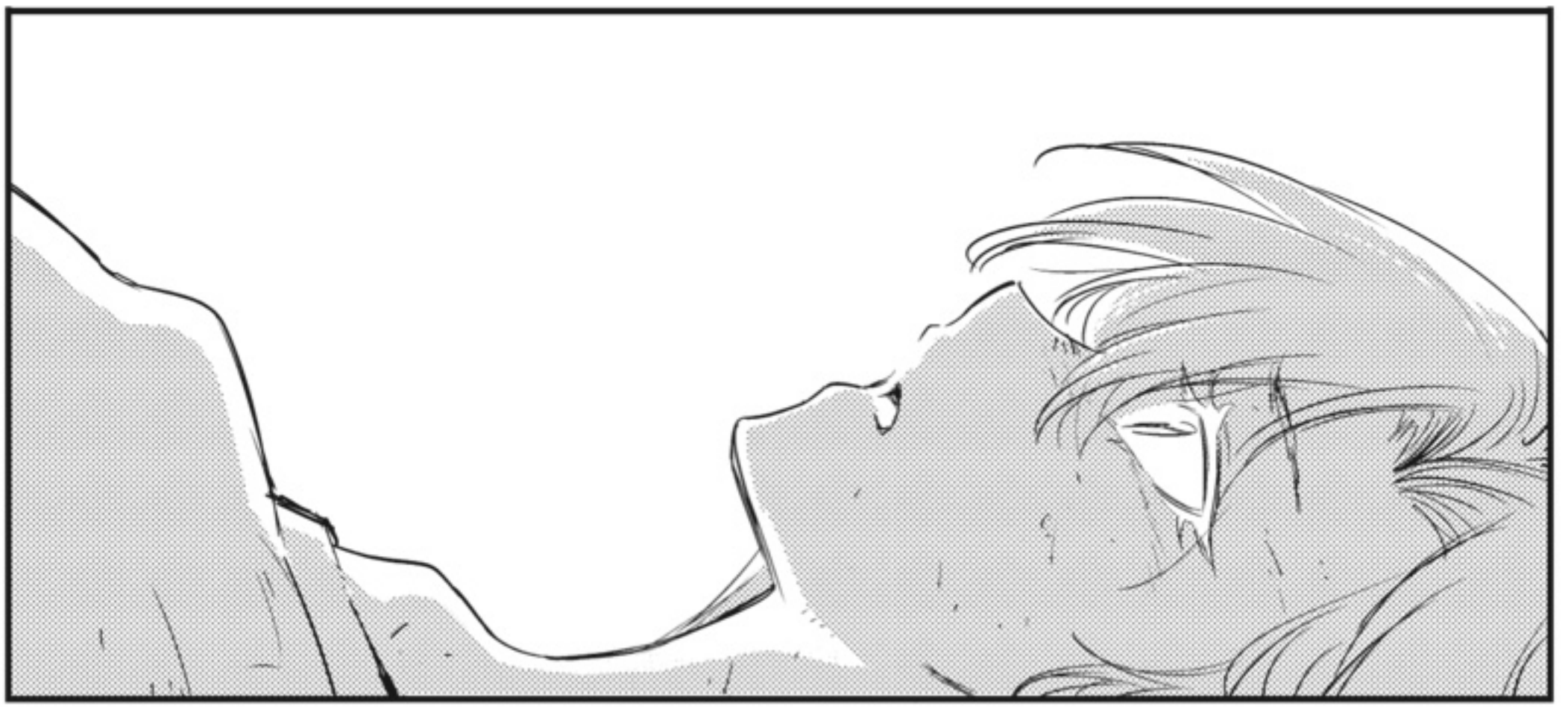
...ORI—

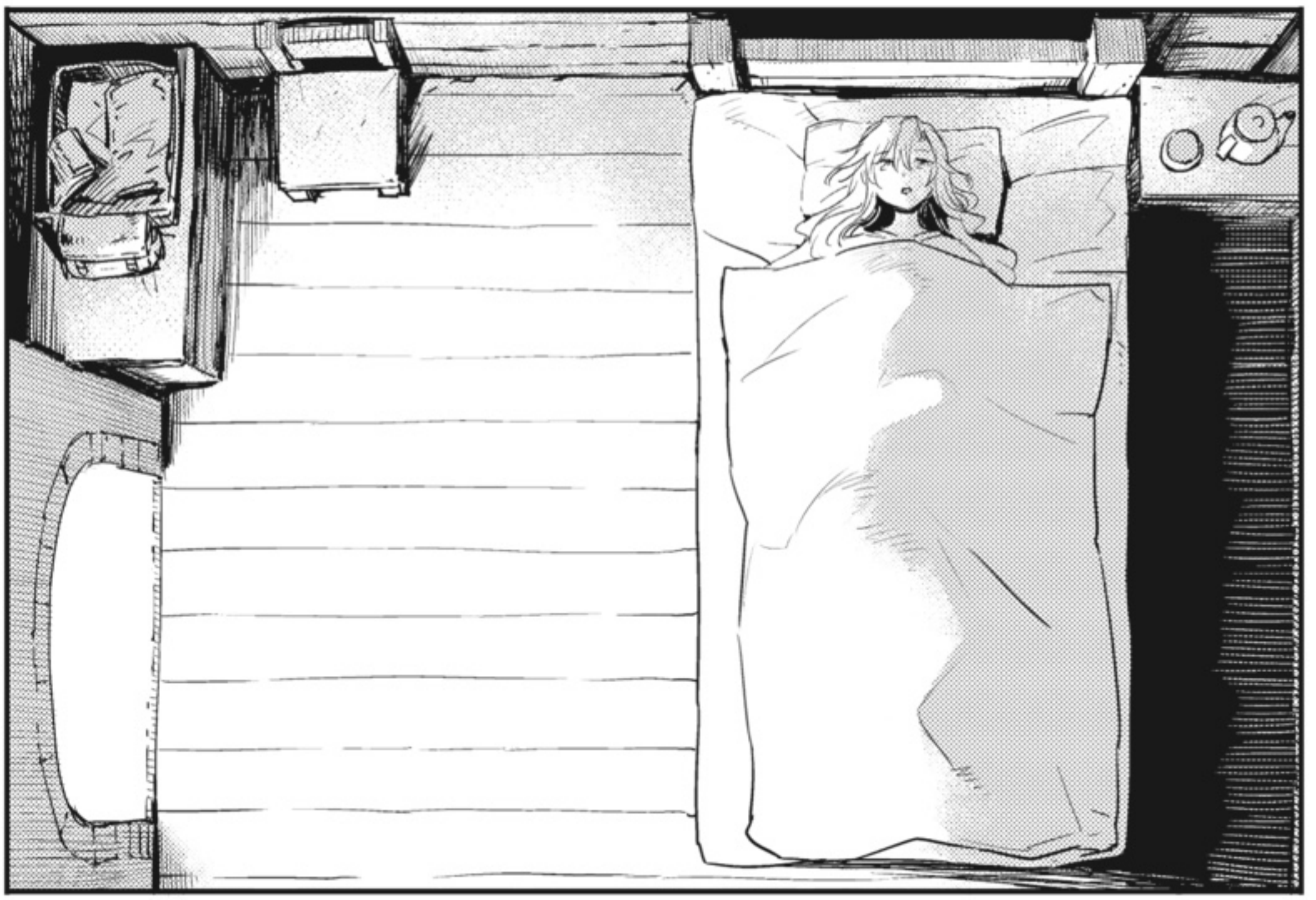
TONITRUS...

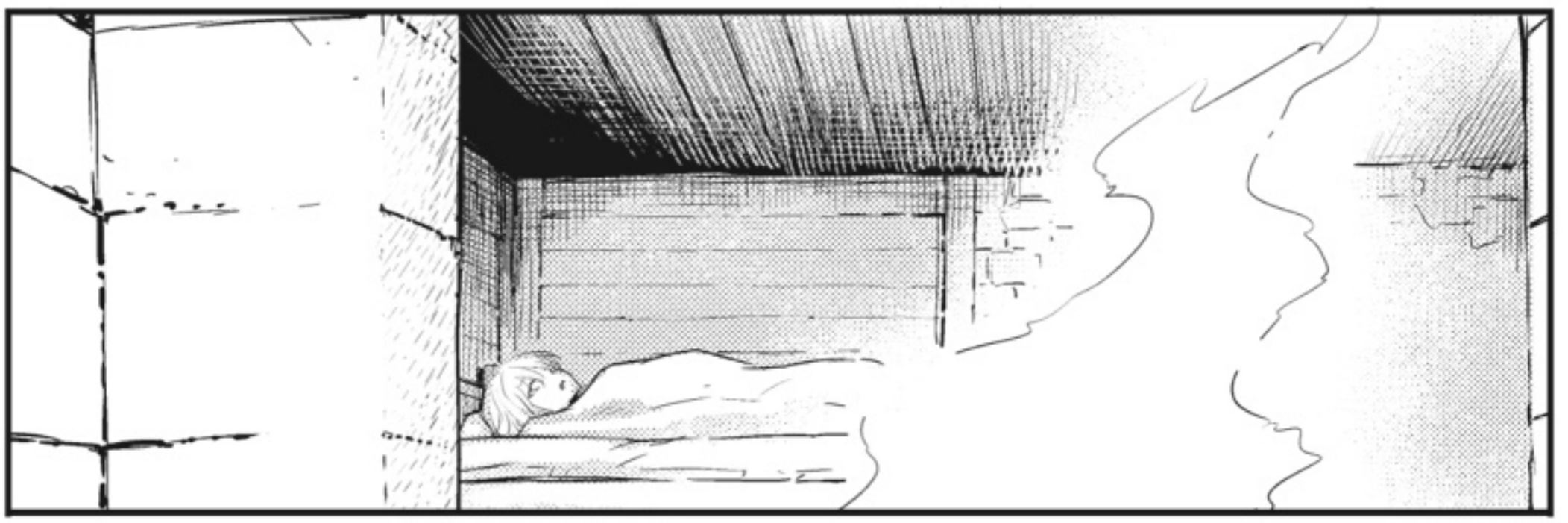
GO (WHACK)

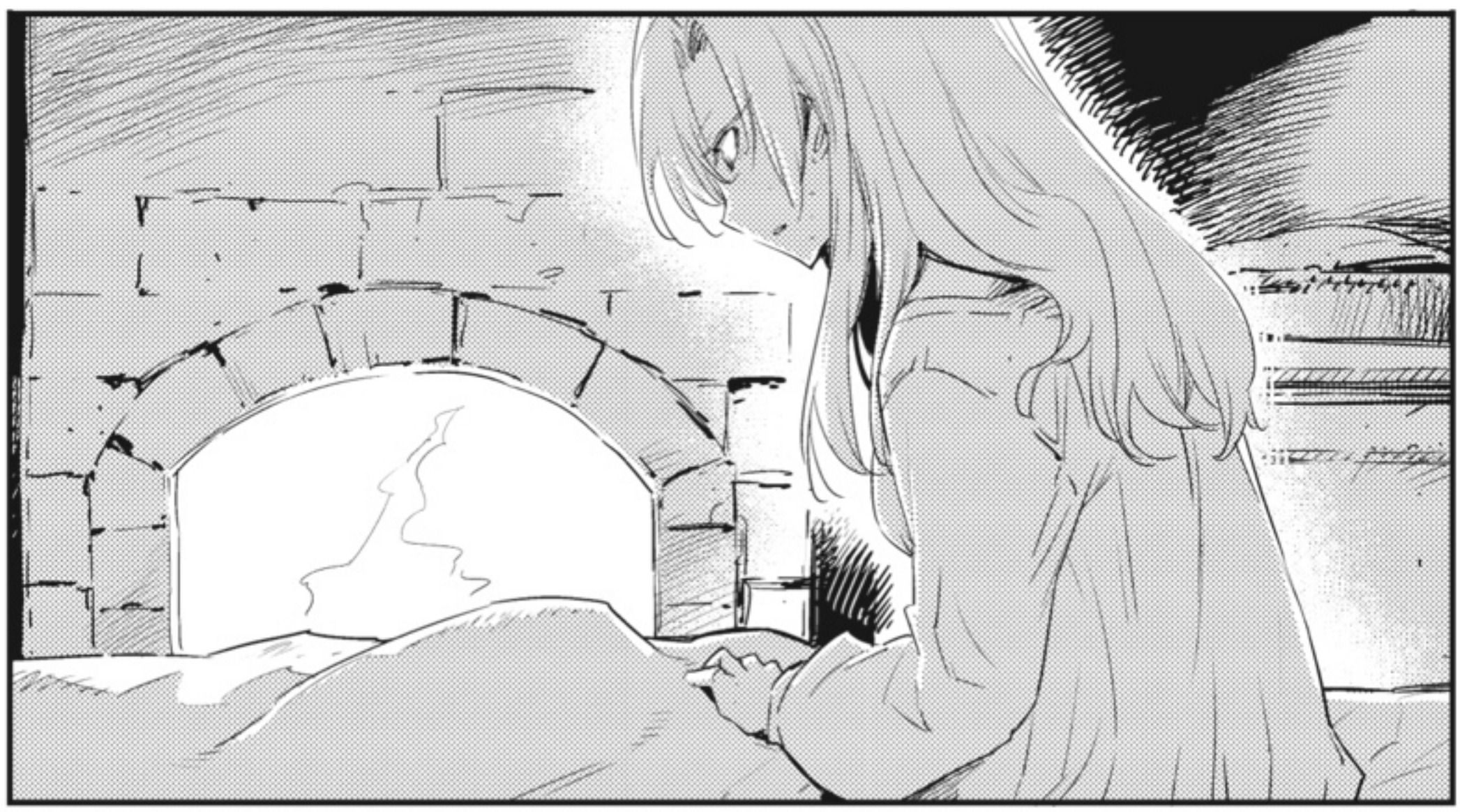
BOTA (SPAT)

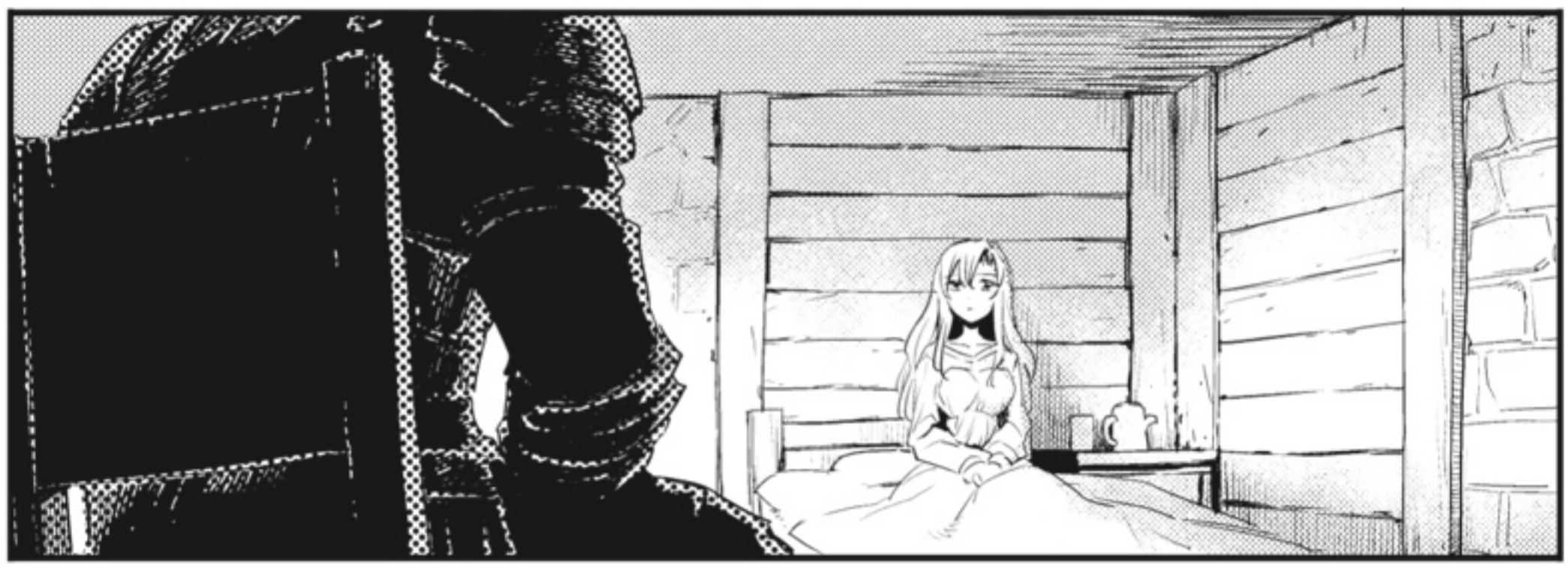
DOSA (WHUMPH)

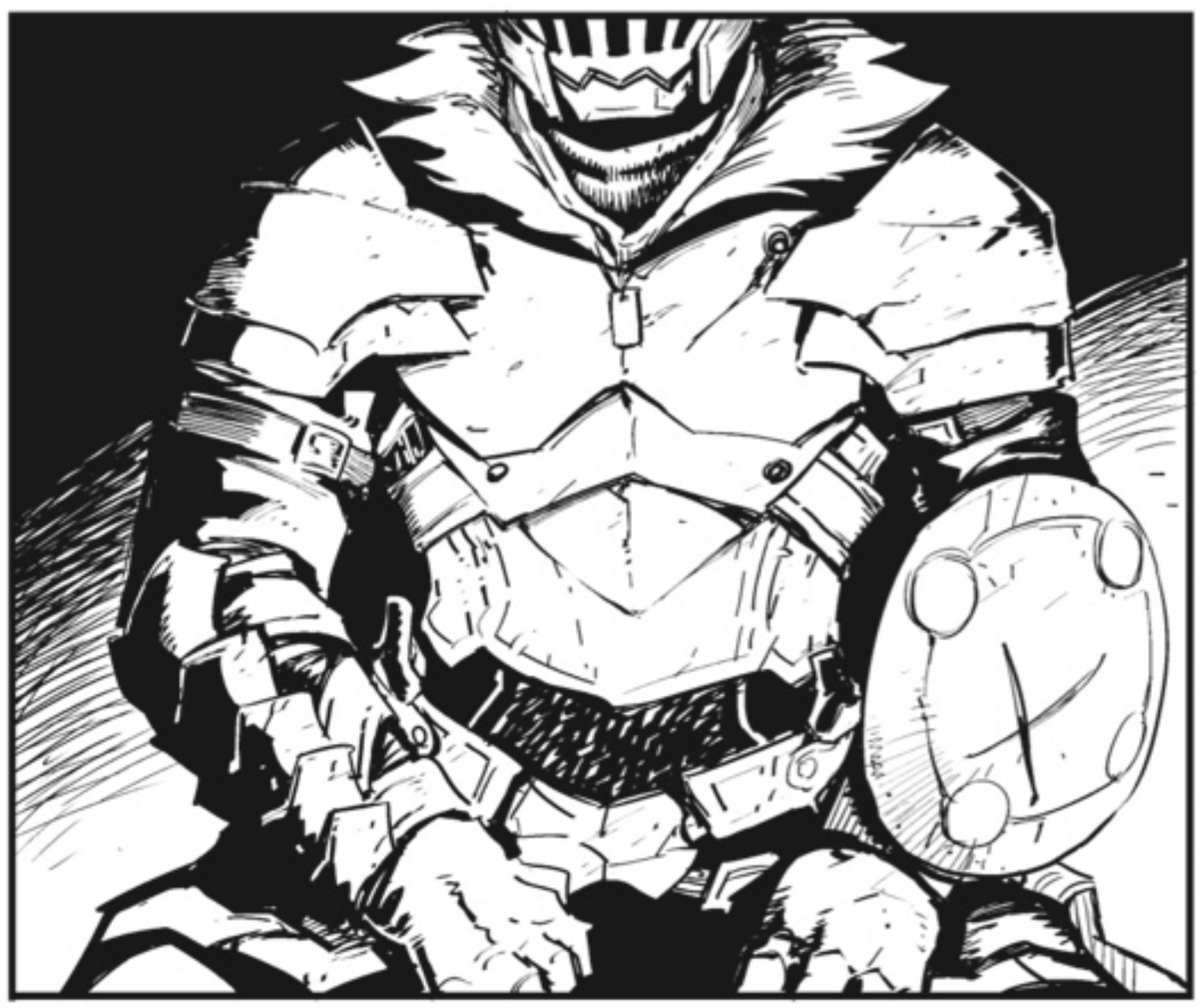


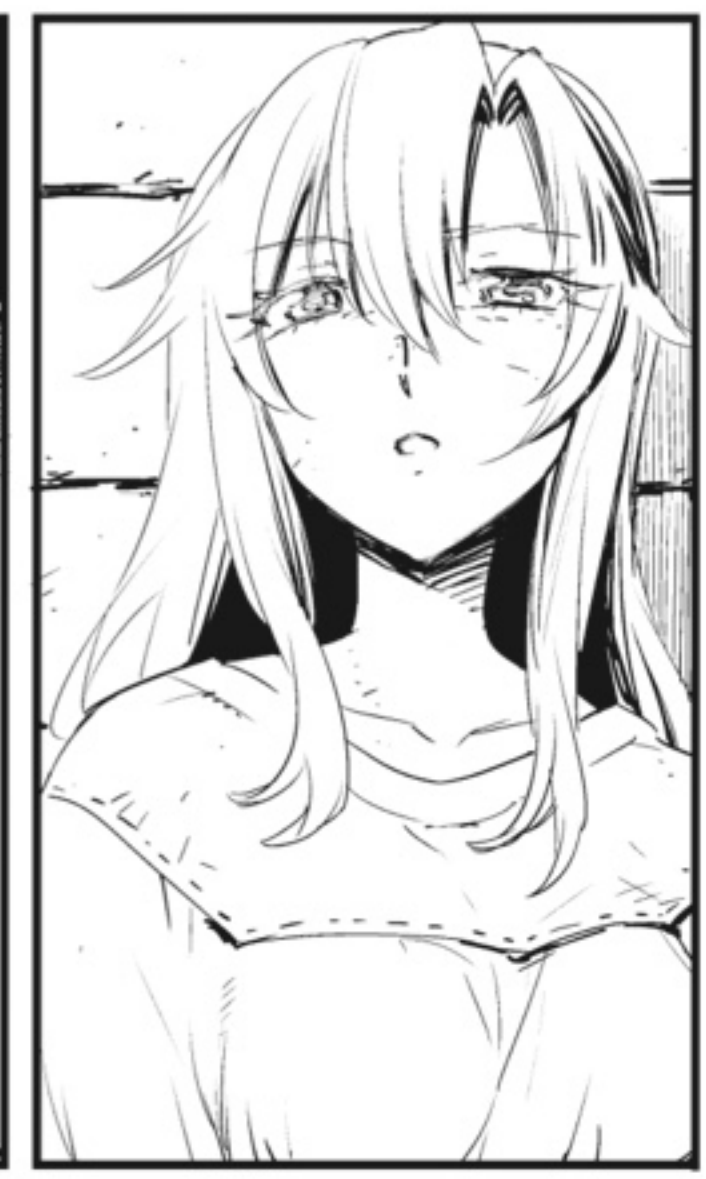


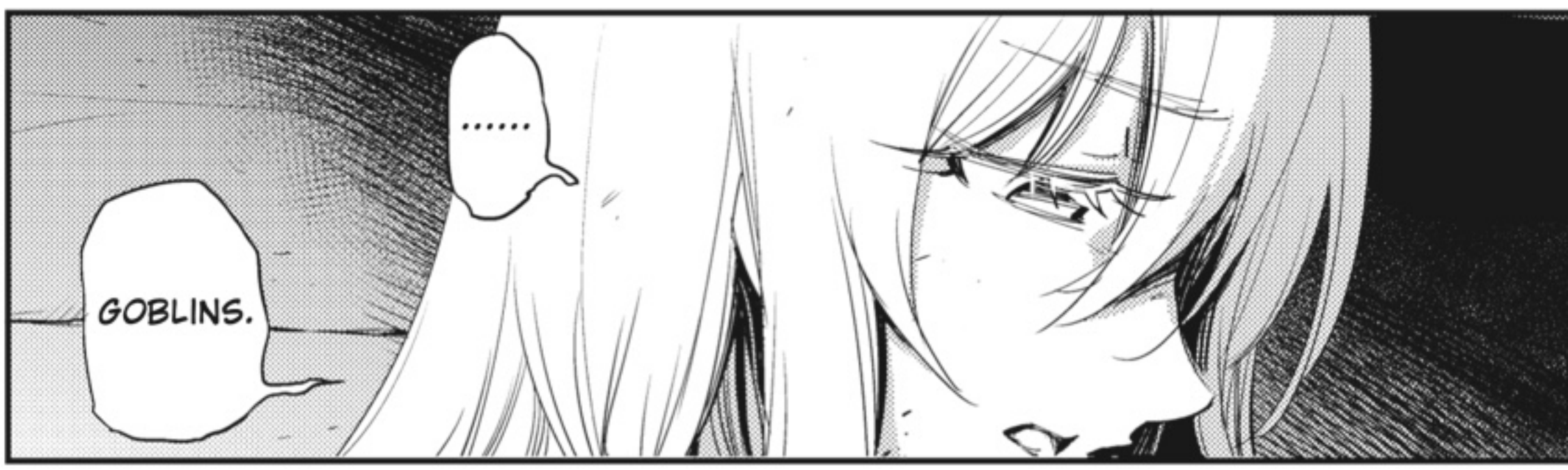






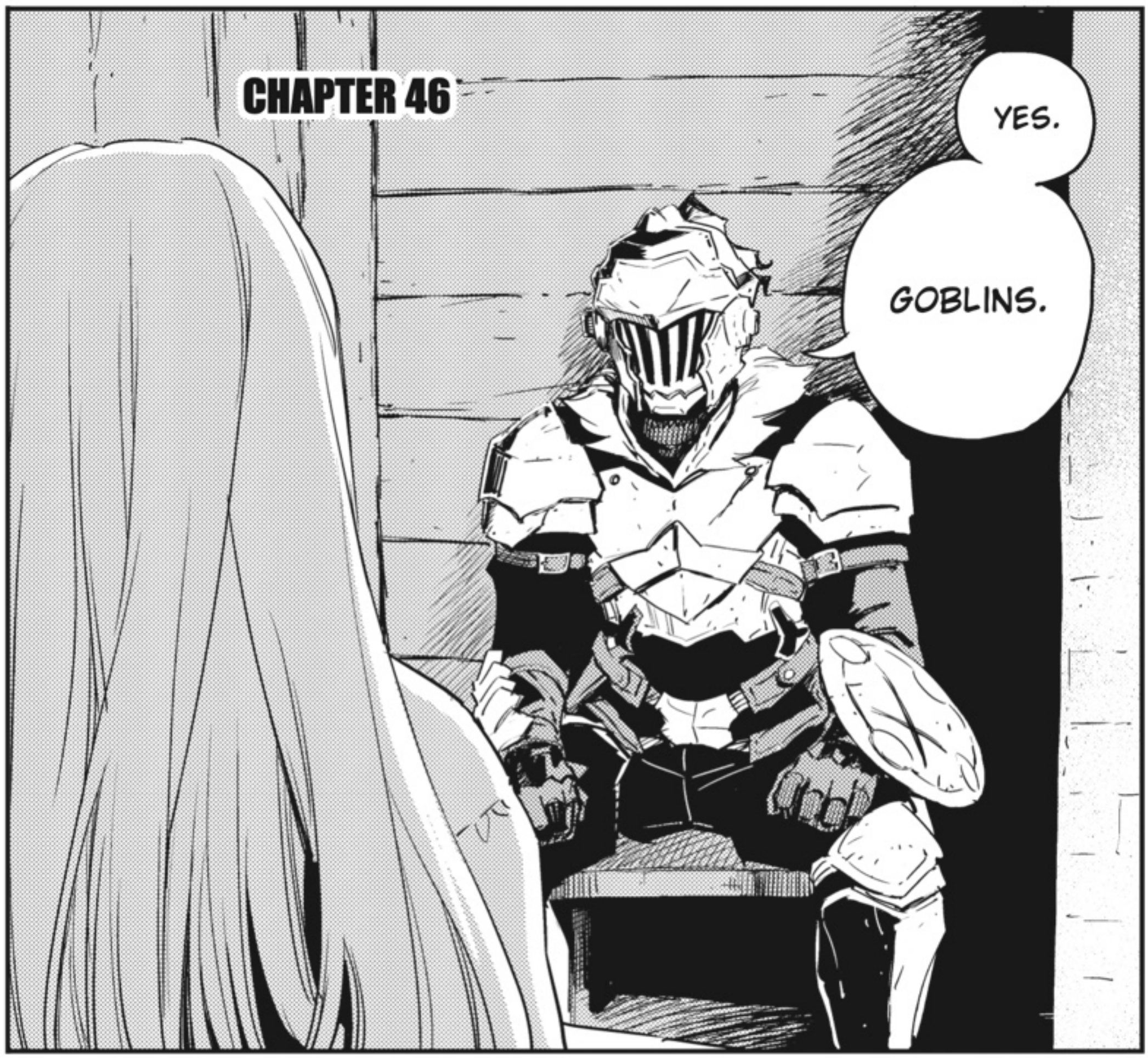


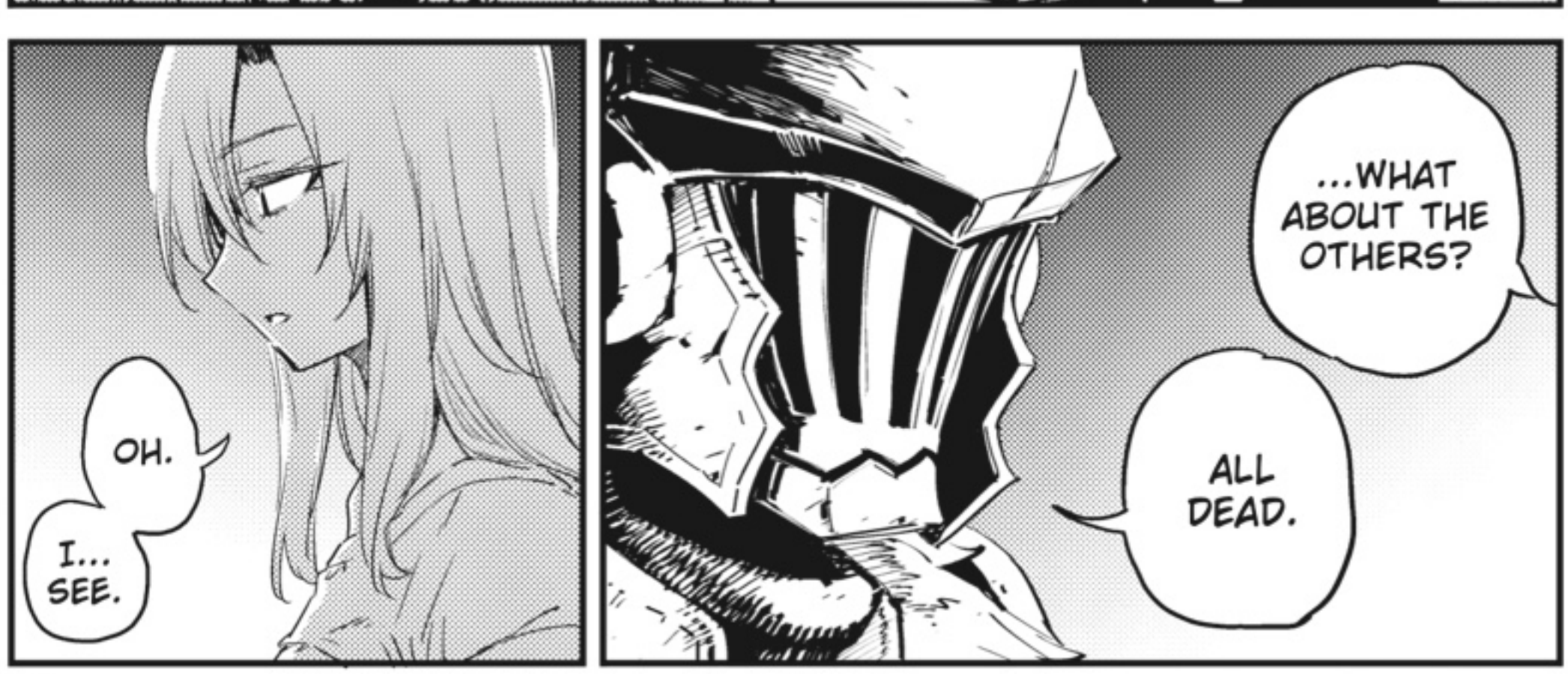


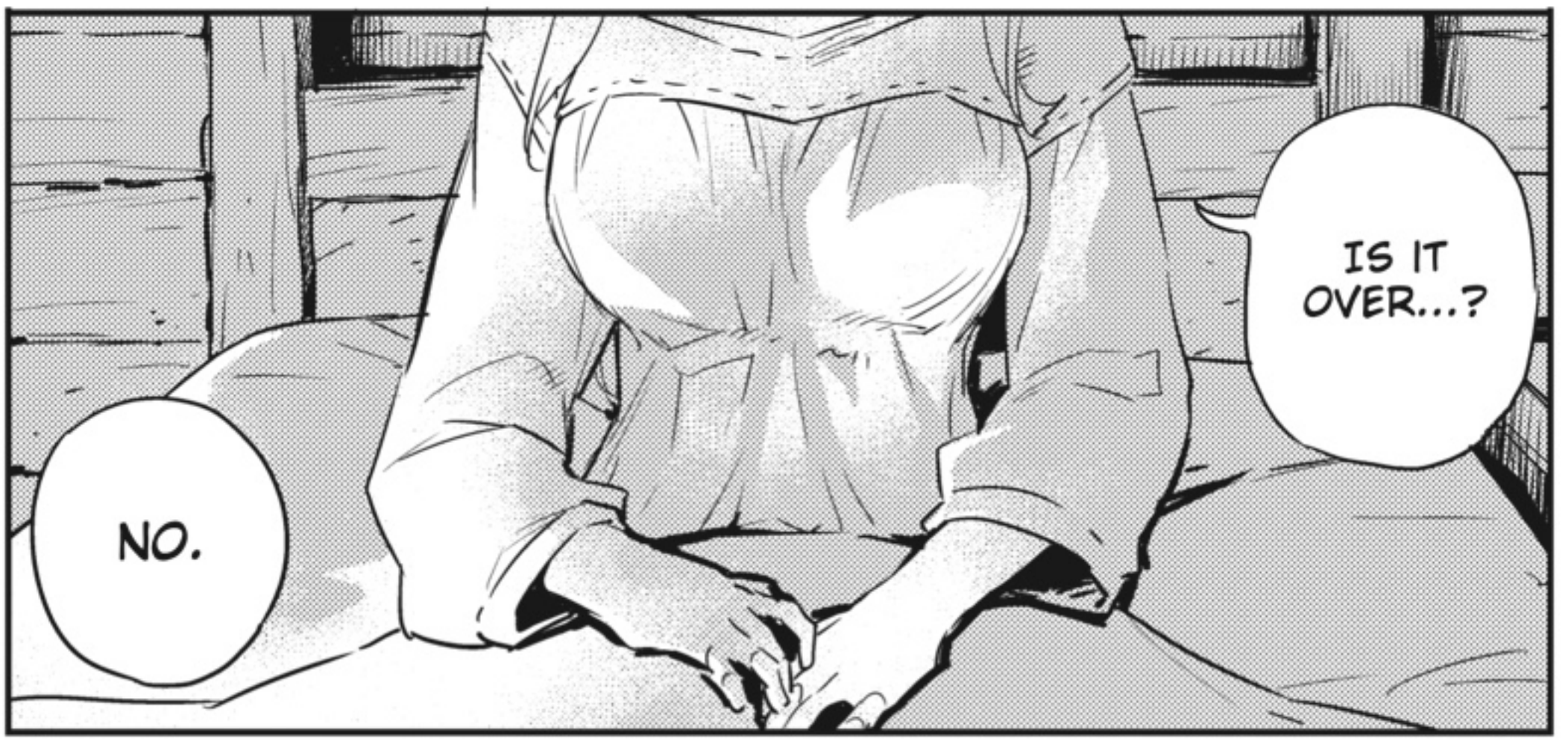

.....
GOBLINS.

YES.
GOBLINS.

...
GOBLINS.


CHAPTER 46
YES.
GOBLINS.


OH.
I... SEE.
...WHAT ABOUT THE OTHERS?
ALL DEAD.


NO.
IS IT OVER...?

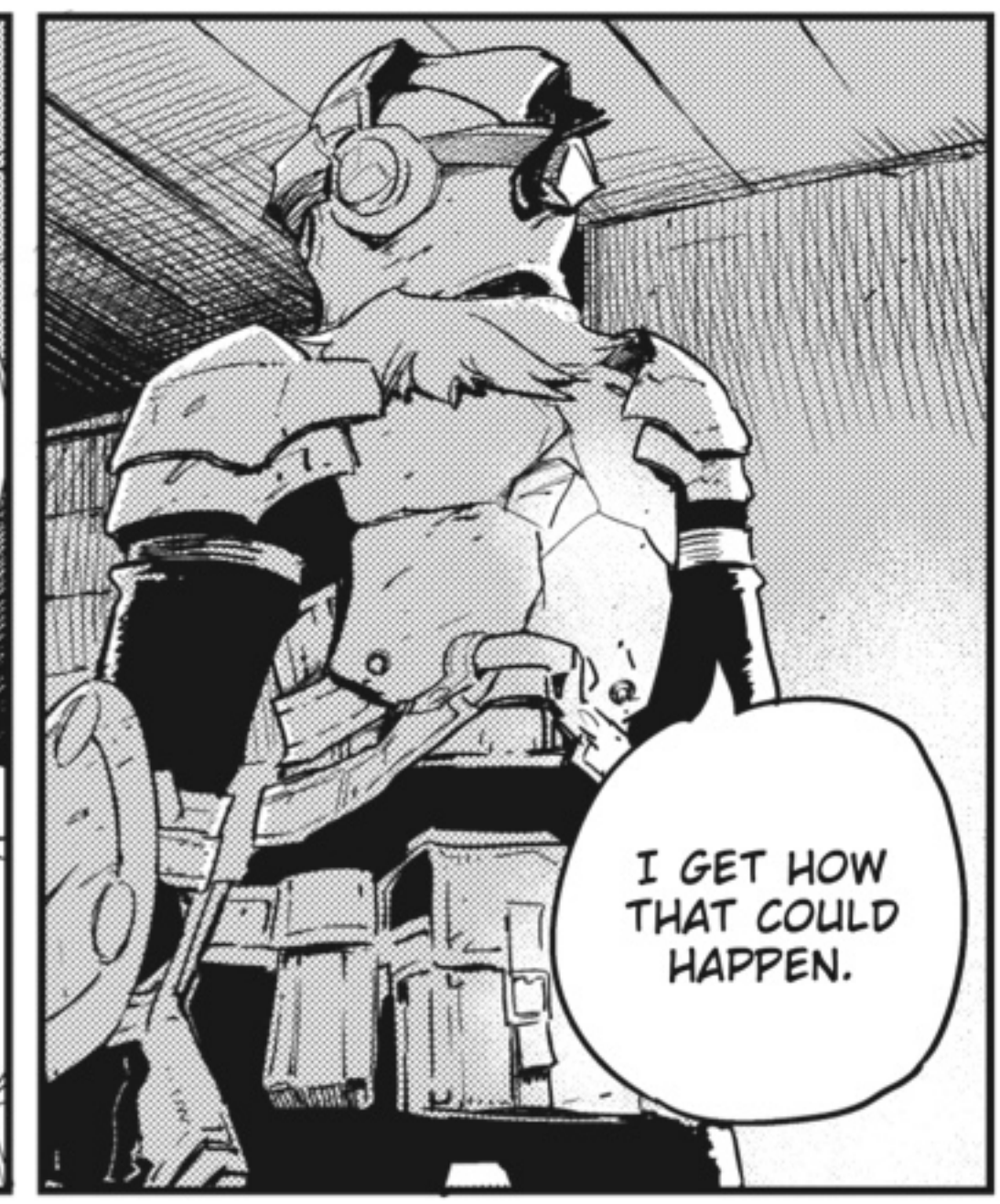
JUST TELL ME WHAT YOU CAN.
SOUNDS LIKE THAT'S OKAY.
.....
THERE ARE SOME THINGS I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU.

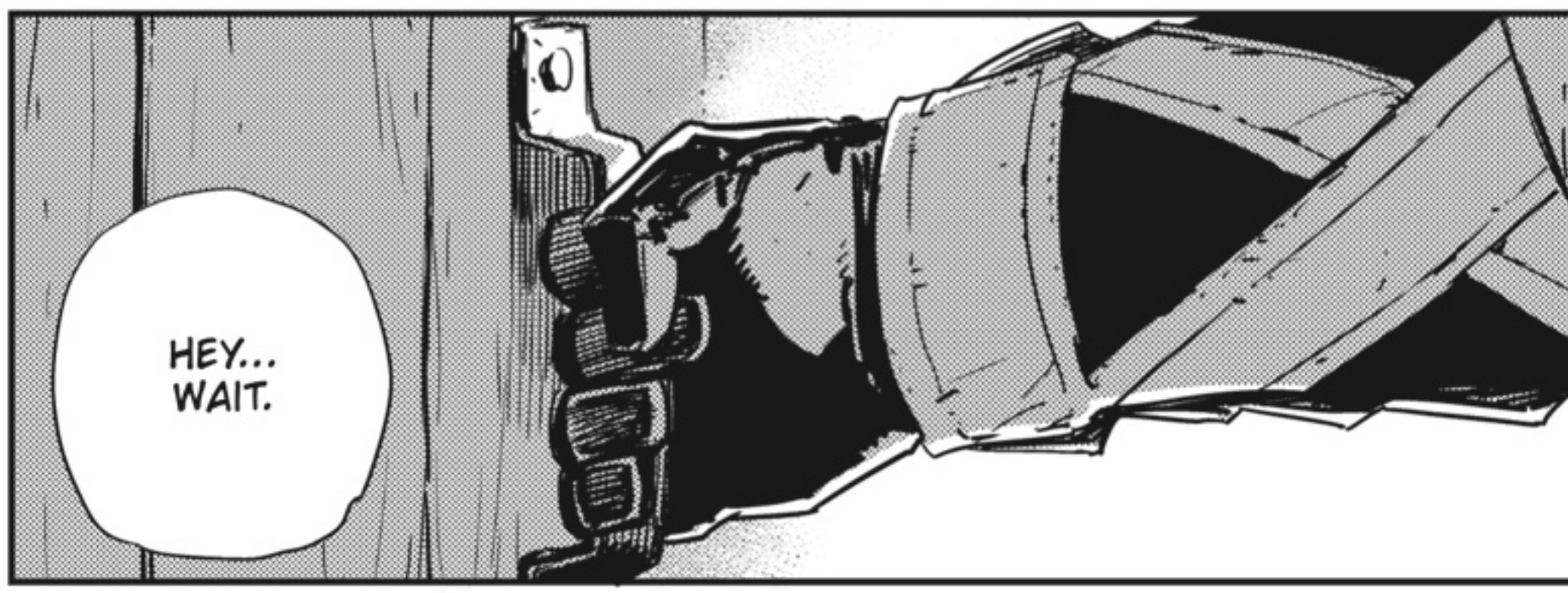
I SEE.

...I WAS SURE IT WOULD WORK.

WHAT DID YOU DO?
...TRIED TO STARVE THEM OUT.

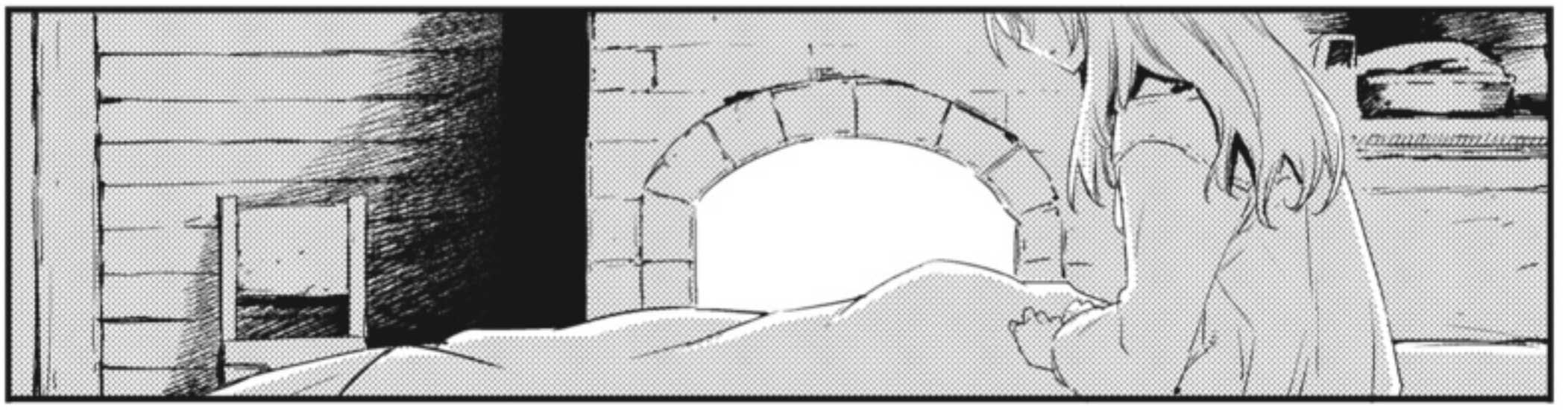
HOW MANY? LAYOUT OF THE NEST?
...I DON'T KNOW.
WHERE DID YOU ENCOUNTER THEM?
WHAT DIREC-TION?
NEAR THE CAVE.
NORTH.

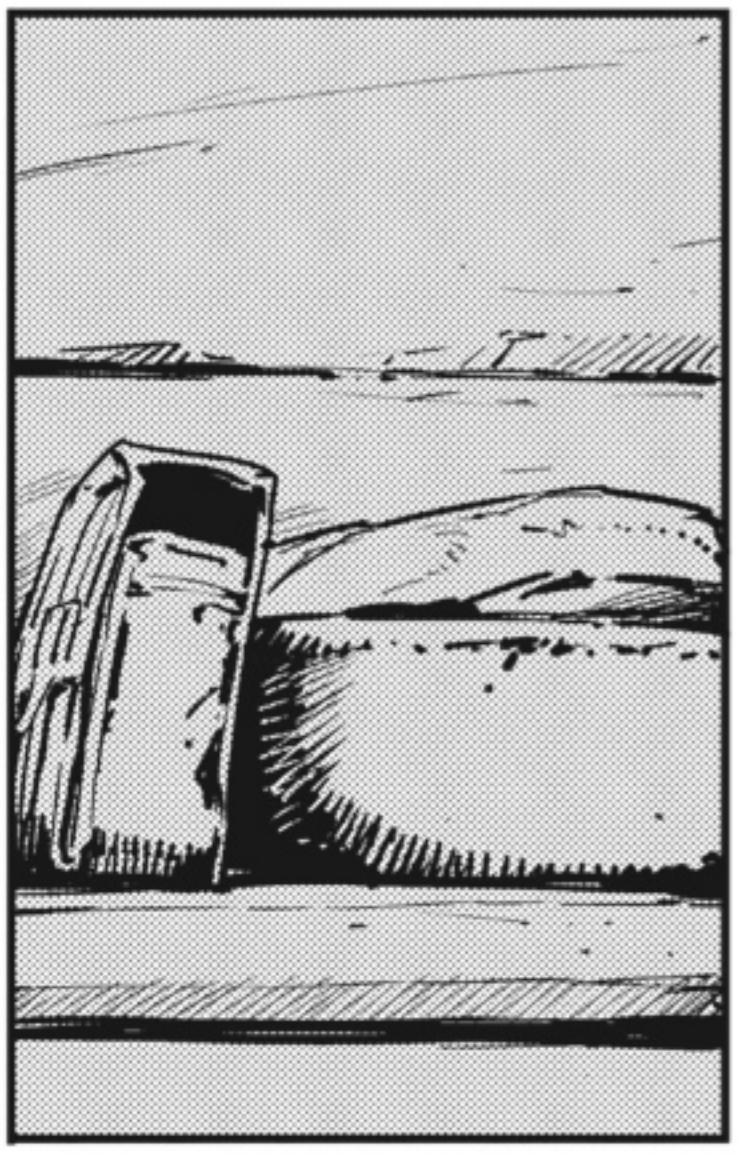

I GET HOW THAT COULD HAPPEN.

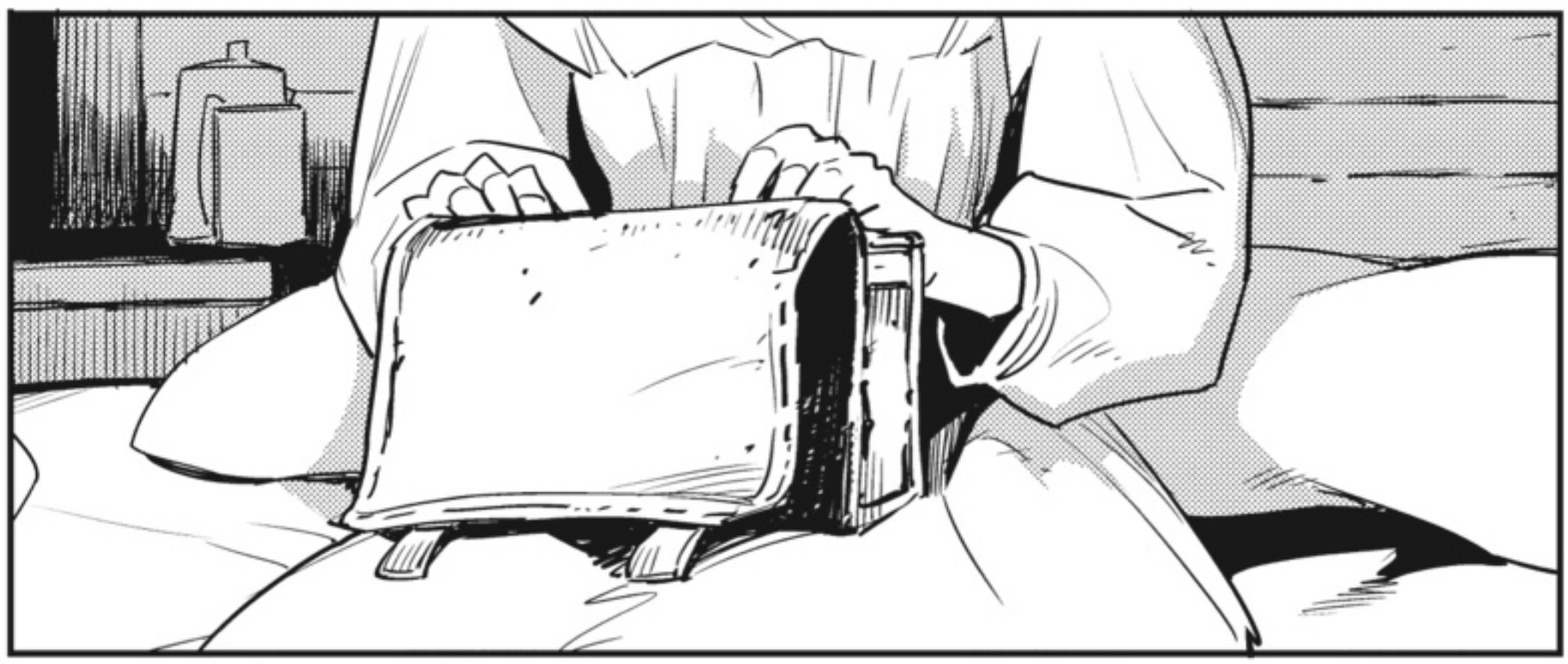

HEY... WAIT.

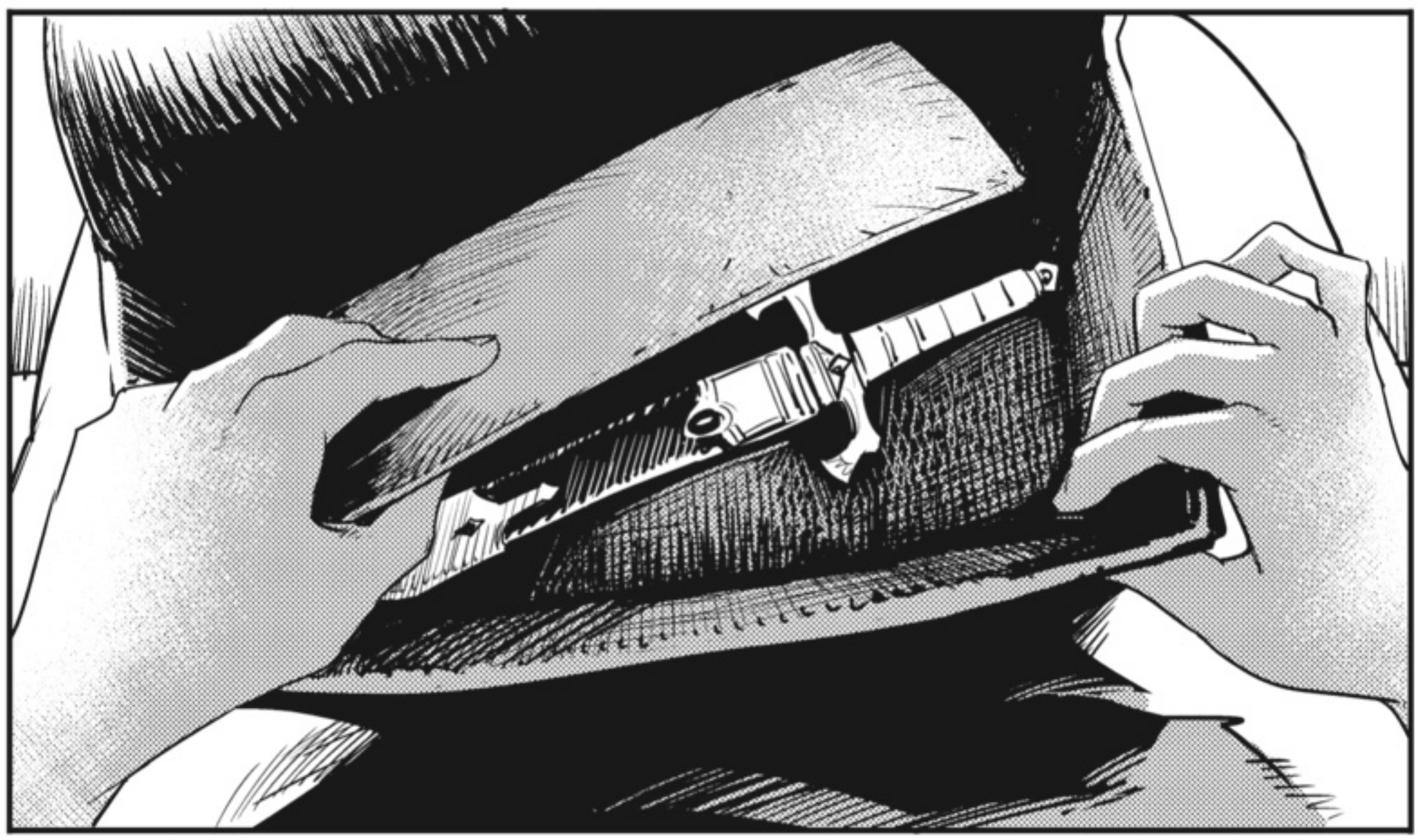
ARE YOU GOBLIN SLAYER?

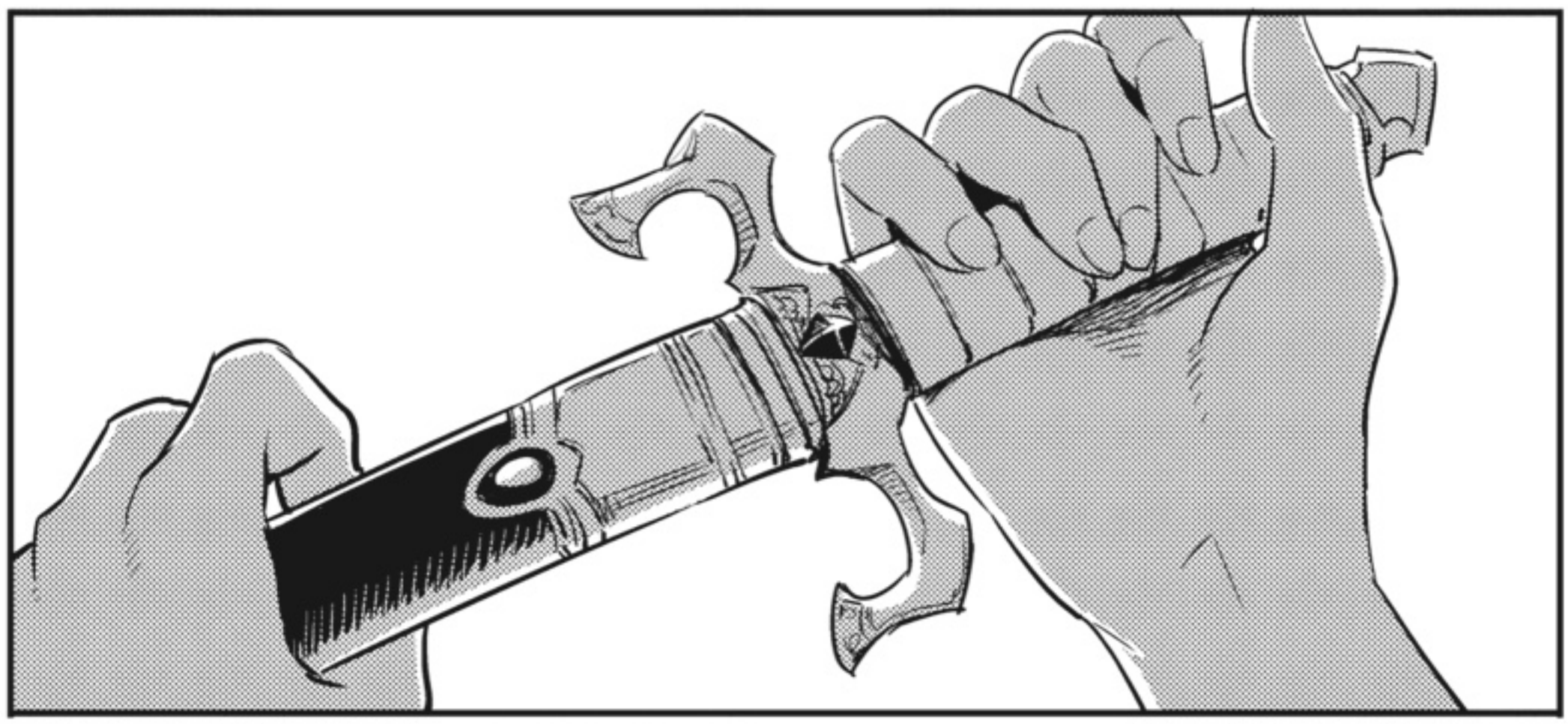
THAT'S WHAT THEY CALL ME.







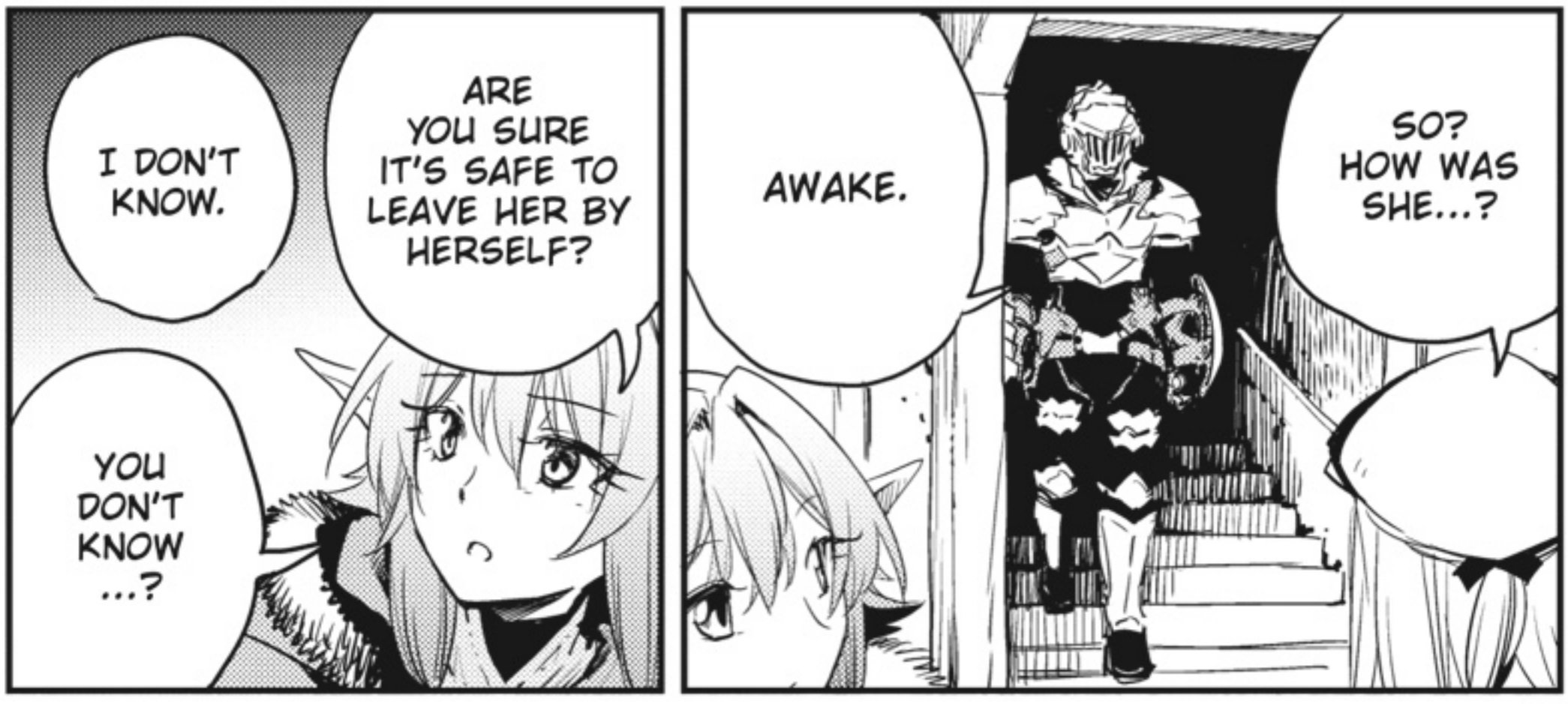


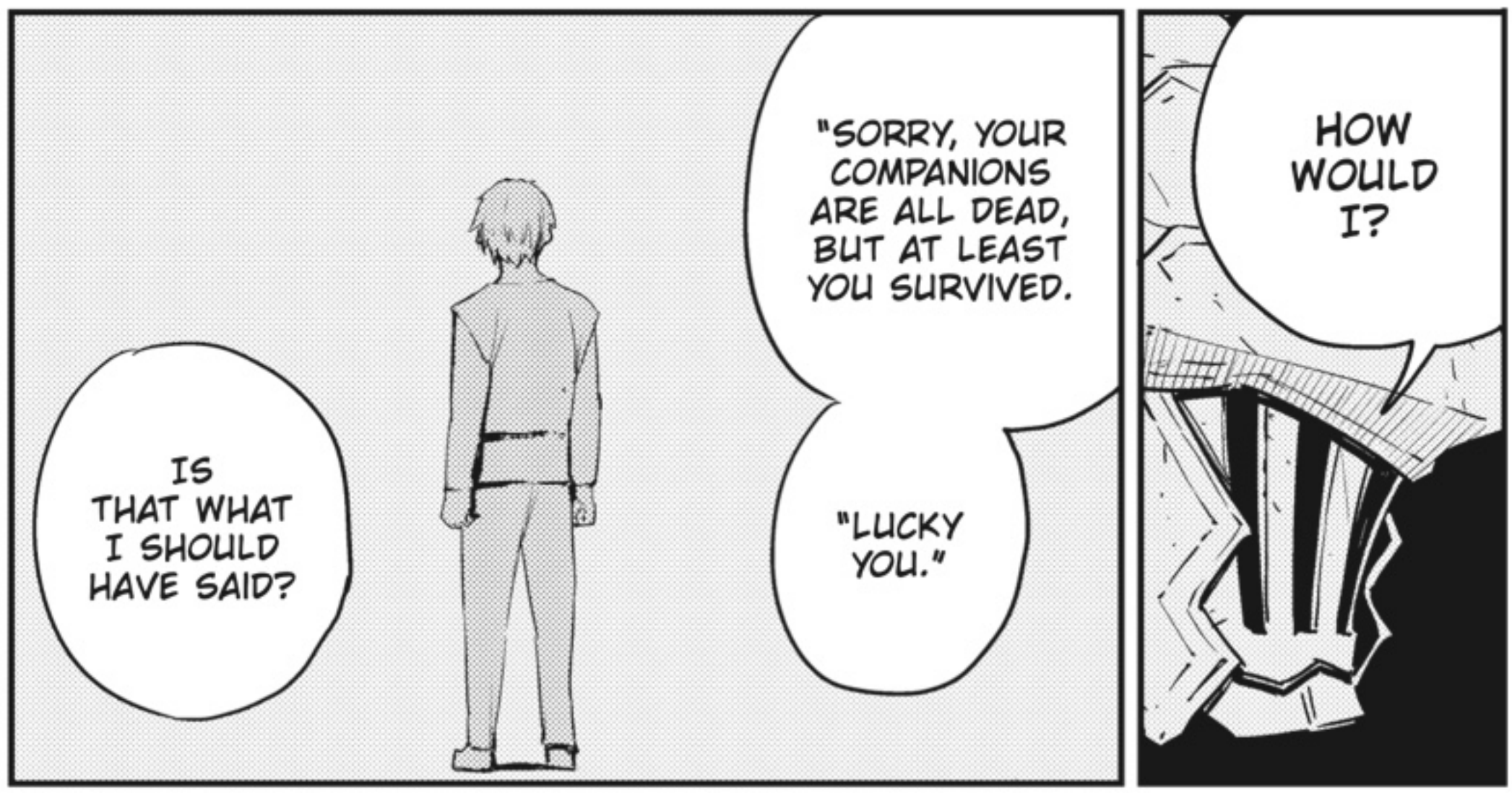


ZUKIN (SHING)

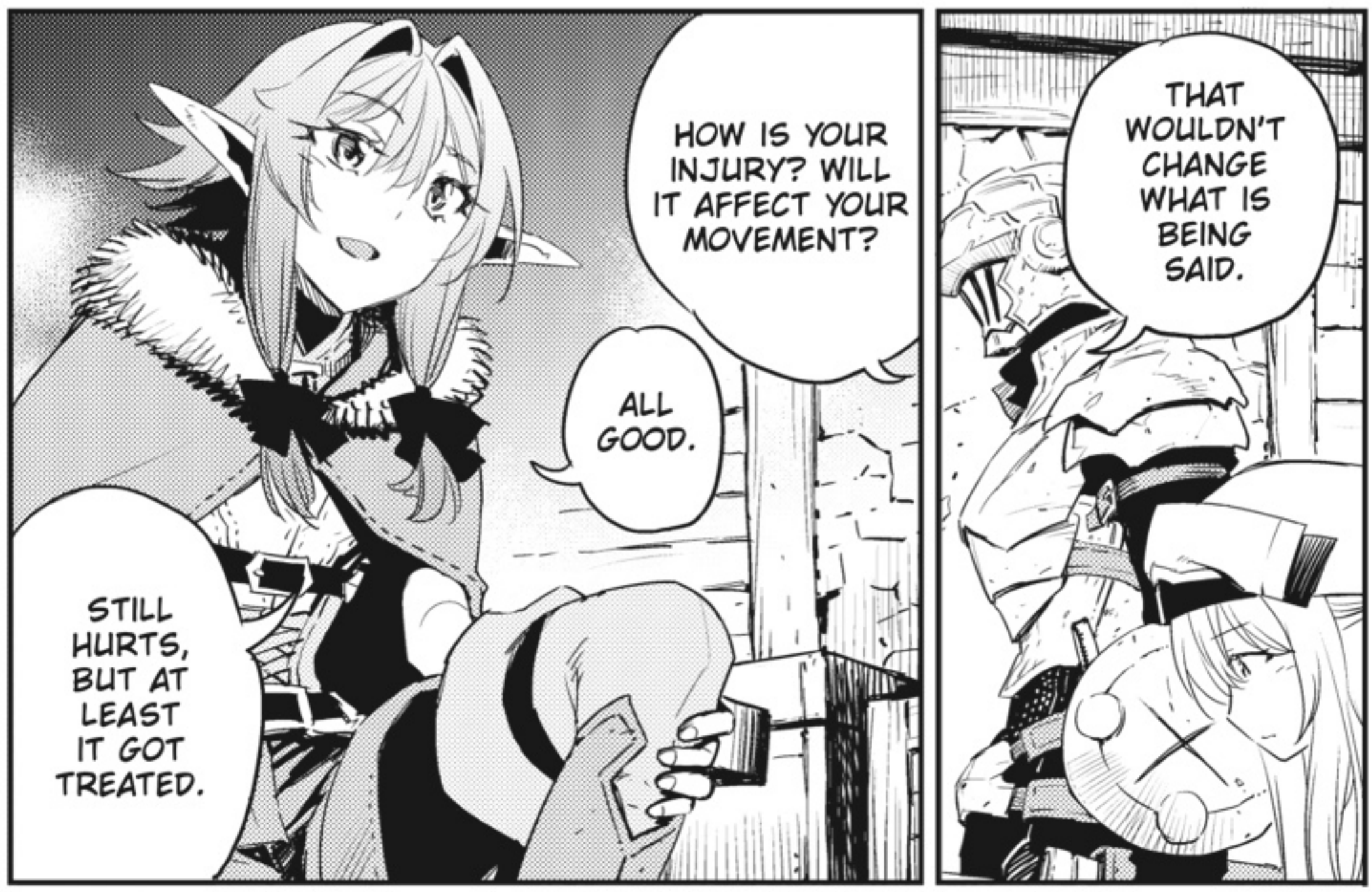
"THE ONE WHO KILLS...

"... GOBLINS ..."




IS THAT WHAT I SHOULD HAVE SAID?
"SORRY, YOUR COMPANIONS ARE ALL DEAD, BUT AT LEAST YOU SURVIVED.
"LUCKY YOU."
HOW WOULD I?

...THERE'S A MORE SENSITIVE WAY TO PUT IT, YOU KNOW.
WELL, OKAY, BUT...


HOW IS YOUR INJURY? WILL IT AFFECT YOUR MOVEMENT?
ALL GOOD.
STILL HURTS, BUT AT LEAST IT GOT TREATED.
THAT WOULDN'T CHANGE WHAT IS BEING SAID.

AND I GOT US SOME MEDICINE.

AS FOR OUR PROVISIONS...

...I WAS ABLE TO PROCURE ENOUGH FOR OUR CURRENT NEEDS, THOUGH NOT CHEAPLY.

DON'CHA THINK A GIRL LIKE THAT WOULD MAKE A FINE LITTLE WIFE FOR YOU?

THAT GIRL DOESN'T HAVE THE KNACK OF MIXING POTIONS YET...

...BUT SHE SAID WE WERE WELCOME TO ALL THE MEDICINAL HERBS WE NEEDED!

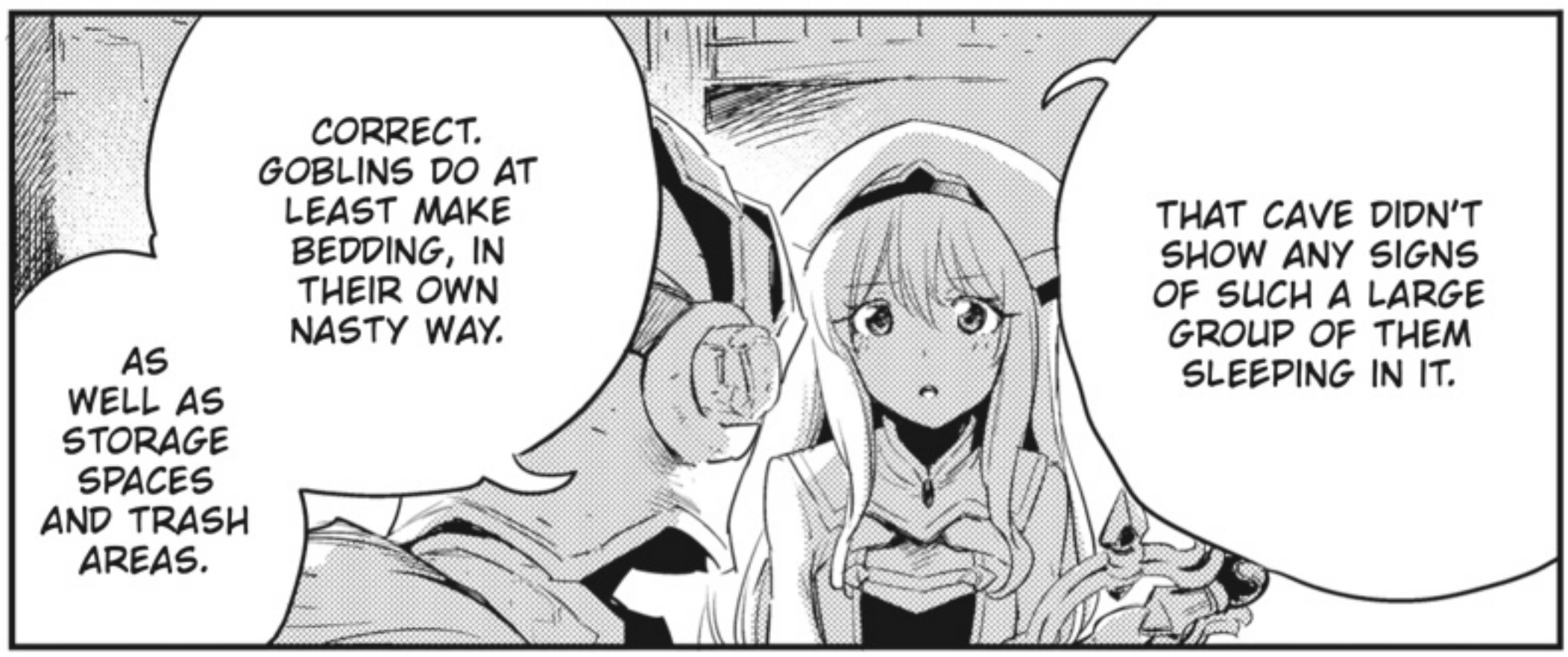
IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING. WE STRIKE AT THE GOBLINS.

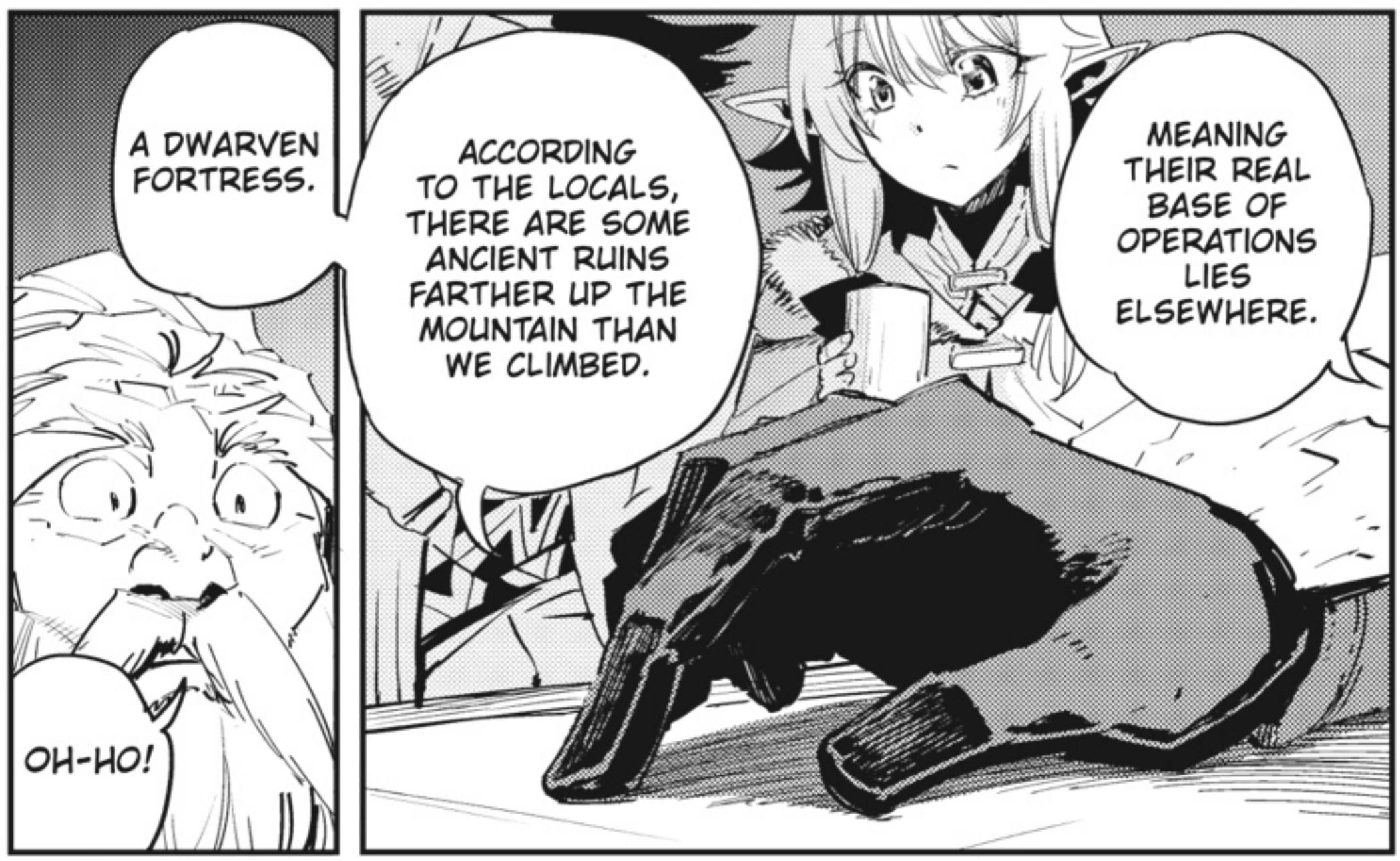
SO... WHAT DO WE DO NEXT?

UM...

I HAVE NO IDEA.

YEAH, THAT WAS SOME KIND OF CHAPEL.
CLEARLY THEY WERE NOT ACTUALLY LIVING IN THAT CAVE.
STILL CAN'T QUITE BELIEVE IT, THOUGH.


CORRECT. GOBLINS DO AT LEAST MAKE BEDDING, IN THEIR OWN NASTY WAY.
THAT CAVE DIDN'T SHOW ANY SIGNS OF SUCH A LARGE GROUP OF THEM SLEEPING IN IT.
AS WELL AS STORAGE SPACES AND TRASH AREAS.


A DWARVEN FORTRESS.
ACCORDING TO THE LOCALS, THERE ARE SOME ANCIENT RUINS FARTHER UP THE MOUNTAIN THAN WE CLIMBED.
MEANING THEIR REAL BASE OF OPERATIONS LIES ELSEWHERE.
OH-HO!

I DO HAVE SOME GASOLINE.

BUT I DOUBT A STONE FORTRESS COULD BE BURNED DOWN FROM THE OUTSIDE.

THINK FIRE MIGHT WORK?

FROM THE AGE OF THE GODS, YOU MEAN?

WOULDN'T WANT TO MAKE A FRONTAL ASSAULT ON ONE OF THOSE.

A-AN ADVENTURE?

AH, NOW THIS IS TURNING INTO A REAL ADVENTURE!

I'M LIKING THIS!

SOUNDS LIKE YOU HAVE A PLAN.

I DO NOW.

DO EITHER OF YOU HAVE ANY RELIGIOUS OBJECTIONS TO DISGUISES?

RULED OVER BY SOME POWERFUL RING-LEADER!

AND WE SNEAK IN AND TAKE HIM OUT!

AN IMPENETRABLE MOUNTAIN FORTRESS, STANDING PROUDLY ON THE CLIFFS!

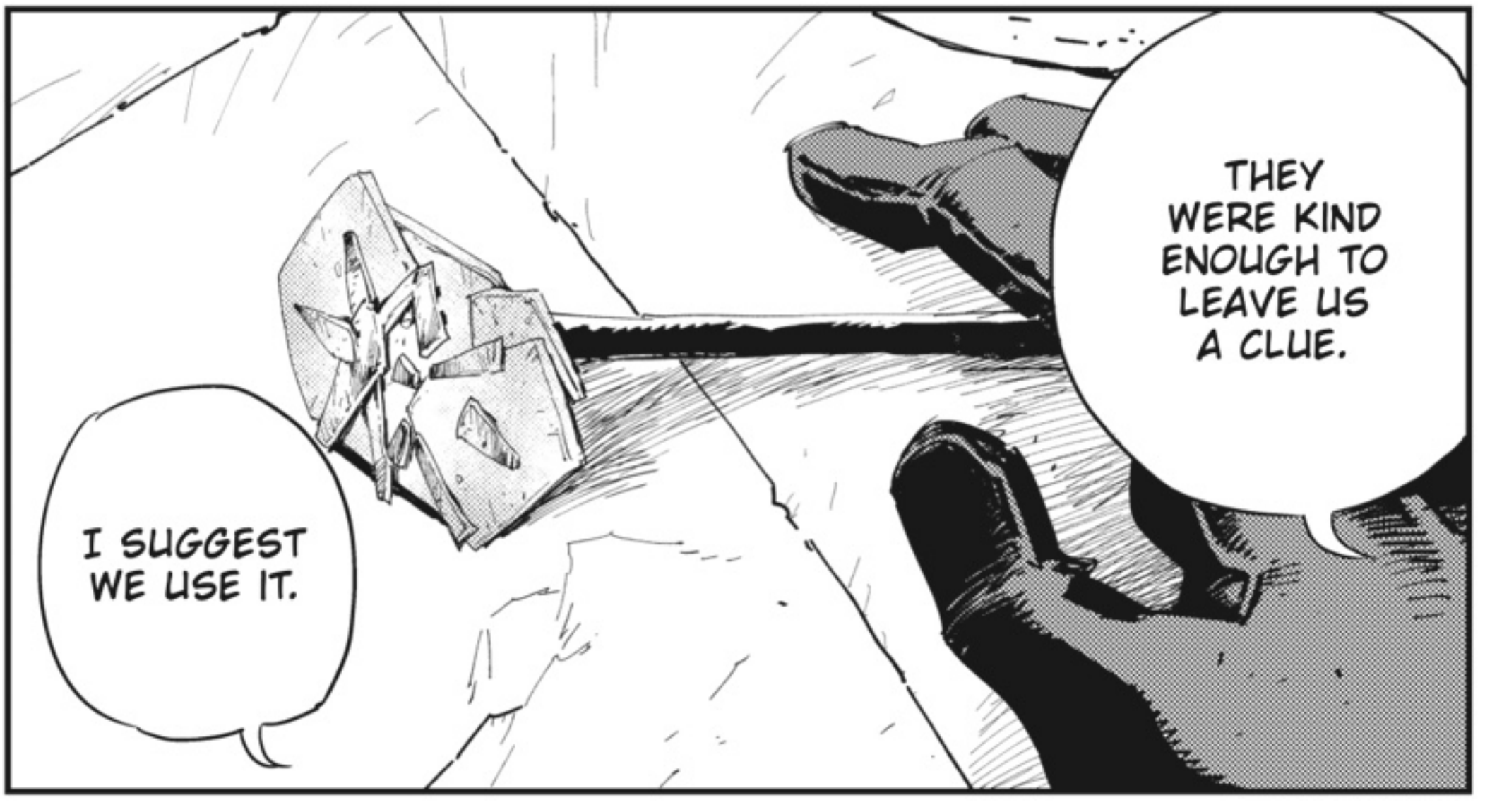
NOW THAT'S AN ADVENTURE!

AND WE WILL NOT BE SNEAKING, EXACTLY.

UH...EXCEPT FOR THE PART ABOUT ALL THE ENEMIES BEING GOBLINS...

HMM, AN EXCELLENT QUESTION. I WONDER...

I... THINK IT DEPENDS ON THE TIME AND SITUATION ...?
GOOD.


THEY WERE KIND ENOUGH TO LEAVE US A CLUE.
I SUGGEST WE USE IT.

SO WE'RE TO MAKE CULTISTS OF OURSELVES...
THAT'S RIGHT.

VERY WELL, THEN!

I SHALL BE A LIZARDMAN IN THE SERVICE OF THE DARK GODS!

SO I GUESS THAT MAKES ME A DARK ELF, RIGHT?

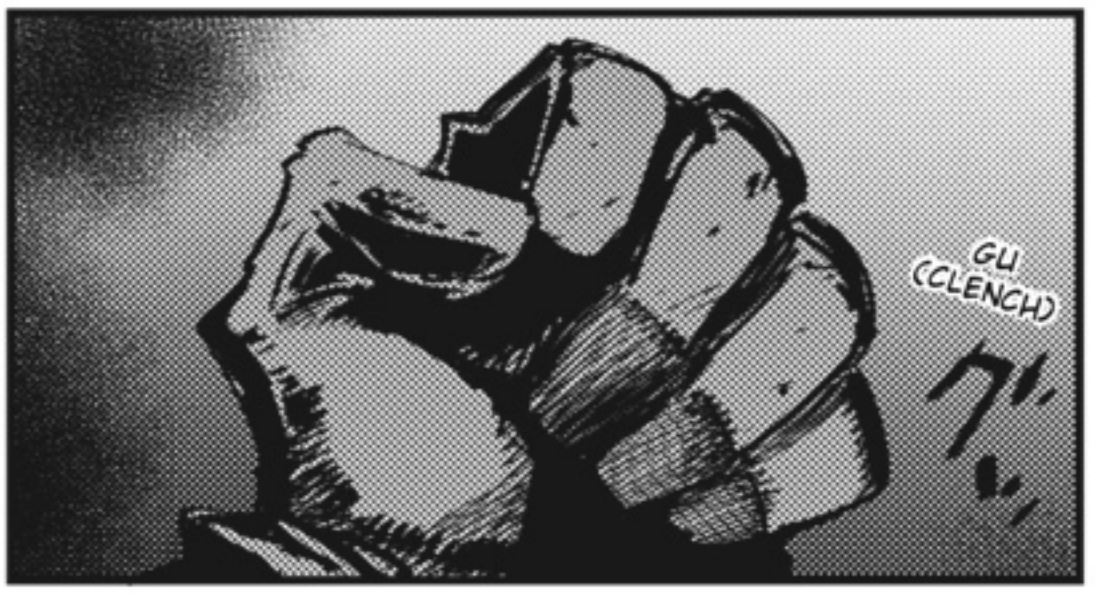
I'LL JUST COVER MYSELF WITH INK!

NICE!

M-ME TOO?

HEY, IT'S BETTER THAN GOBLIN GUTS, RIGHT?

I KNOW.
YES.
WHAT FINE YOUNG WOMEN.


GU (CLENCH)
グッ

"HE"? YOU MEAN THE ONE LEADING THEM, WHO MIGHT BE SOME KINDA PALADIN?
...HE WAS ABLE TO COPY MY INVENTION.

AND IF WE HAVE ALREADY DEALT WITH THIRTY-SIX OF HIS MINIONS...

HE APPEARS QUITE INTELLIGENT.

...THEN THERE MUST BE MANY OF THEM INDEED.

YES.

IF WE DO MANAGE TO GET IN—

GISHI (CREAK)

ABOUT THAT...

AND WHAT DO WE DO SHOULD WE ACTUALLY SUCCEED IN ENTERING THE FORTRESS?

BA (FWAH)

NO WAY!

WE CAME HERE TO RESCUE YOU ON YOUR PARENTS' REQUEST.

HOW ABOUT YOU GO HOME AND TALK TO THEM BEFORE YOU GO RISKING YOUR LIFE AGAIN?

NO...

I CAN'T.

GOBLINS...?

I'M COMING.

I'M GOING WITH YOU.

EVERY-
THING.

...I HAVE
TO GET IT
BACK...

...AND
WHAT
MIGHT
"IT" BE?

EVERYTHING I'VE LOST.
EVERY-THING.

...BUT THAT'S NO REASON TO—

THAT IS UNDER-STANDABLE.

A NAGA HAS HIS PRIDE PRECISELY BECAUSE HE IS A NAGA.

HEY—!

!

SAY SOME-THING, DWARF!

I SAY WE LET HER DO AS SHE PLEASES.

NOW, JUST A MINUTE!

BUT A NAGA WITHOUT PRIDE IS NO NAGA AT ALL.

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU...! WHAT IF SHE DIES!?

OUR JOB'S JUST TO RESCUE HER.

AFTER THAT? SHE'S HER OWN WOMAN.

DEATH COMES TO ALL LIVING THINGS. AN ELF OUGHT TO KNOW THAT AS WELL AS ANYONE.

WELL... YEAH, OF COURSE, BUT...

WHAT IF YOU DIE?

WHAT IF ALL OF US DIE?

...WE SHOULD TAKE HER WITH US.
...ALL RIGHT.
I AM NOT YOUR PARENT, NOR AM I A FRIEND.
IF YOU HAVE A REQUEST, YOU KNOW WHAT YOU NEED TO DO.
IF WE DON'T...
...I'M AFRAID...
...SHE MAY NEVER TRULY BE SAVED...

...I'M GOING WITH YOU.

ANY OBJECTIONS?

AND ONE SPELL— LIGHTNING.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

GOOD ENOUGH.

USE THE SWORD.

BU GYANG

A DOWN PAYMENT ON YOUR REWARD.

!!

IF SHE'S GOT YOUR SEAL OF APPROVAL, ORCBOLG, I GUESS...
.....

THEN LET US GO GOBLIN SLAYING.

GOOD.

CHAPTER 47

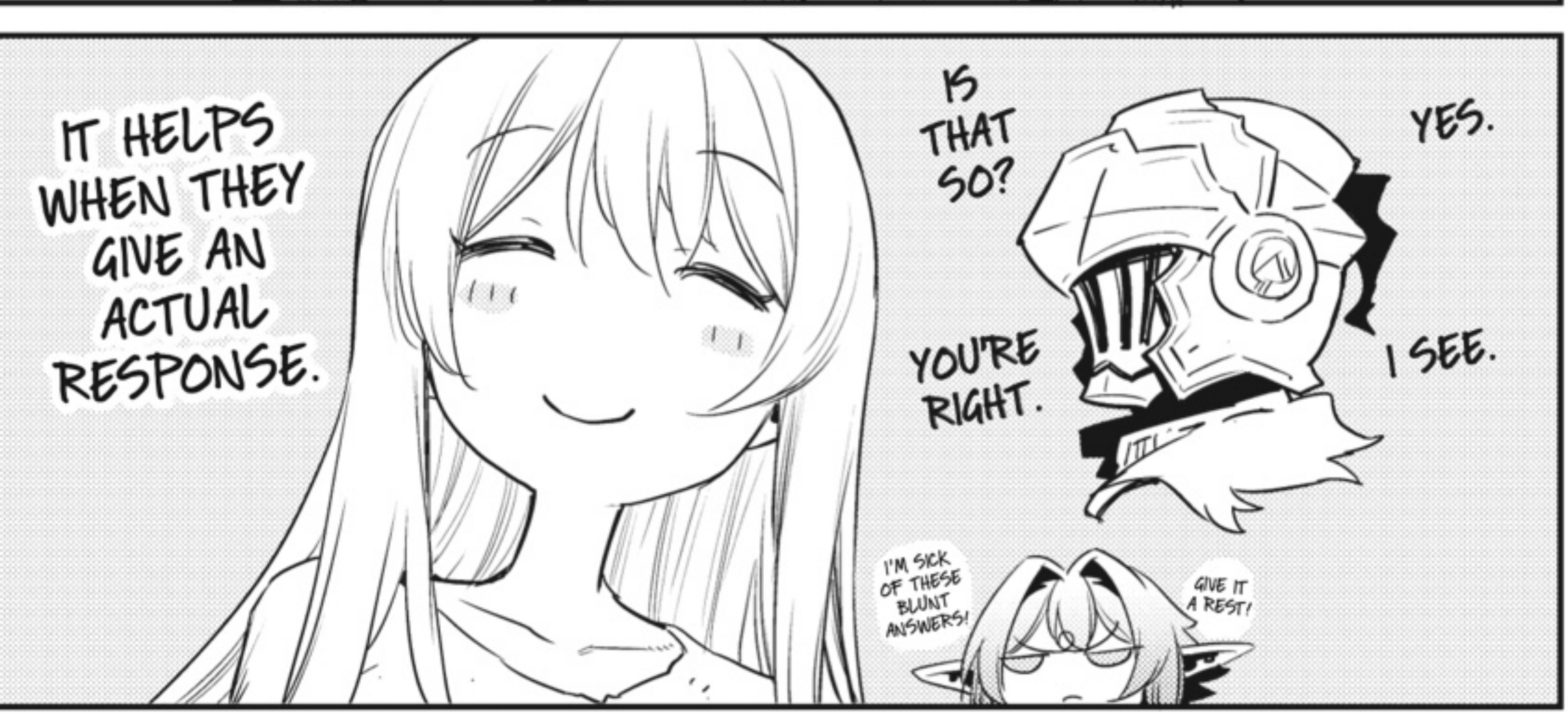
I DID NOT AGREE TO THIIIIS!

BYUOO (FWOOO)

WHY DO WE HAVE TO BE SPOILS OF WAR!?

BECAUSE IT WOULD NOT MAKE SENSE IF I OR THE OTHER MEN WERE.

.....
...I'M FINE.
UM... AREN'T YOU COLD?


IT HELPS WHEN THEY GIVE AN ACTUAL RESPONSE.
IS THAT SO?
YES.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
I SEE.
I'M SICK OF THESE BLUNT ANSWERS!
GIVE IT A REST!

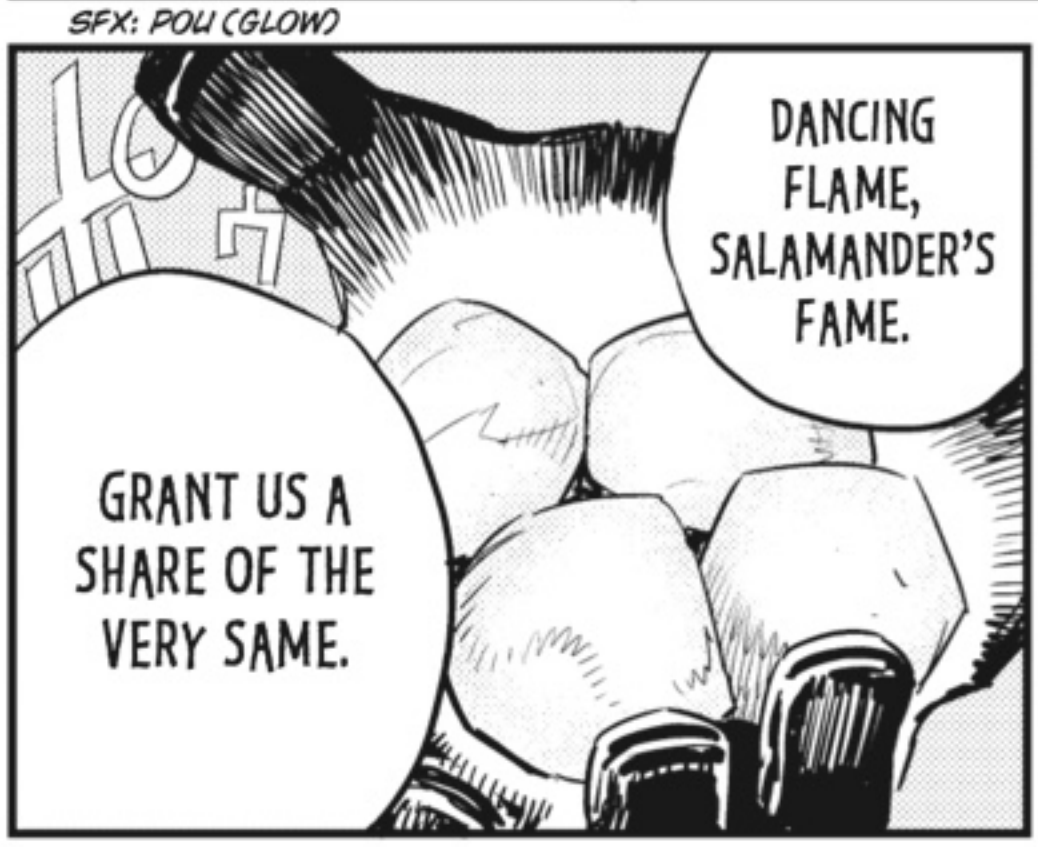
...
HA-CHOO!
...FINE. DO WHATEVER YOU WANT.
WELL, I'M COLD.
SO I'M GOING TO KEEP CLOSE TO YOU, OKAY?

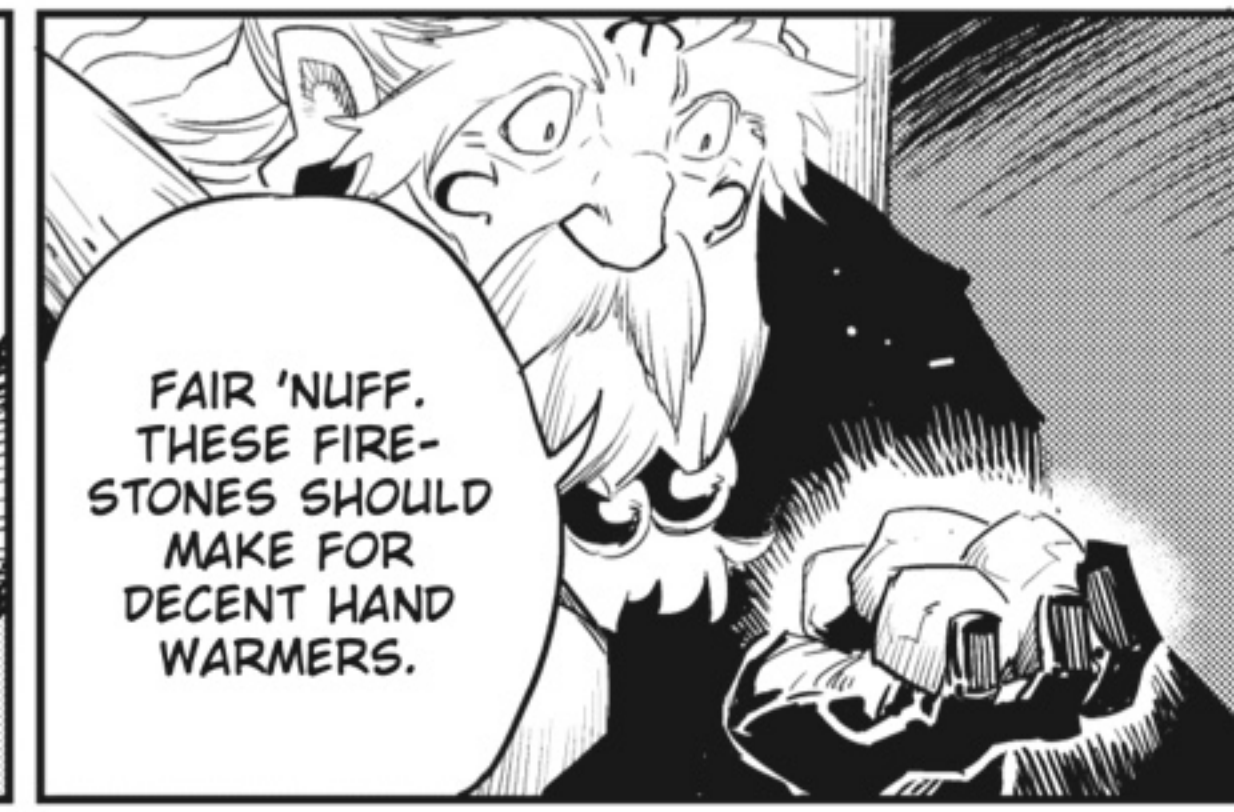
THIS IS THE SNOWY MOUNTAIN, AFTER ALL.

IT'S SO COLD! I FEEL LIKE MY EARS ARE GOING TO FREEZE OFF!

I MYSELF MUST DRESS WARMLY LEST I BE RENDERED IMMOBILE.

SFX: POU (GLOW)





NO, WAIT... NEVER MIND.

OF COURSE HE HAS THIS SORT OF THING. LIKE THAT GATE SCROLL...

"BREATHE"? THAT LETS YOU BREATHE UNDERWATER, DOESN'T IT?

WHY DO YOU HAVE...?

THESE ARE RINGS ENCHANTED WITH THE BREATHE SPELL.

THEY WILL BLUNT THE COLD, EVEN IN THIS SNOWSTORM.

MMM!

THIS AND THAT DWARF'S STONE WARMED ME BACK UP!

OH!

THIS IS AMAZING!

COME ON, I'LL EVEN HELP YOU PUT IT ON.

NOW, THAT CAN'T BE TRUE.

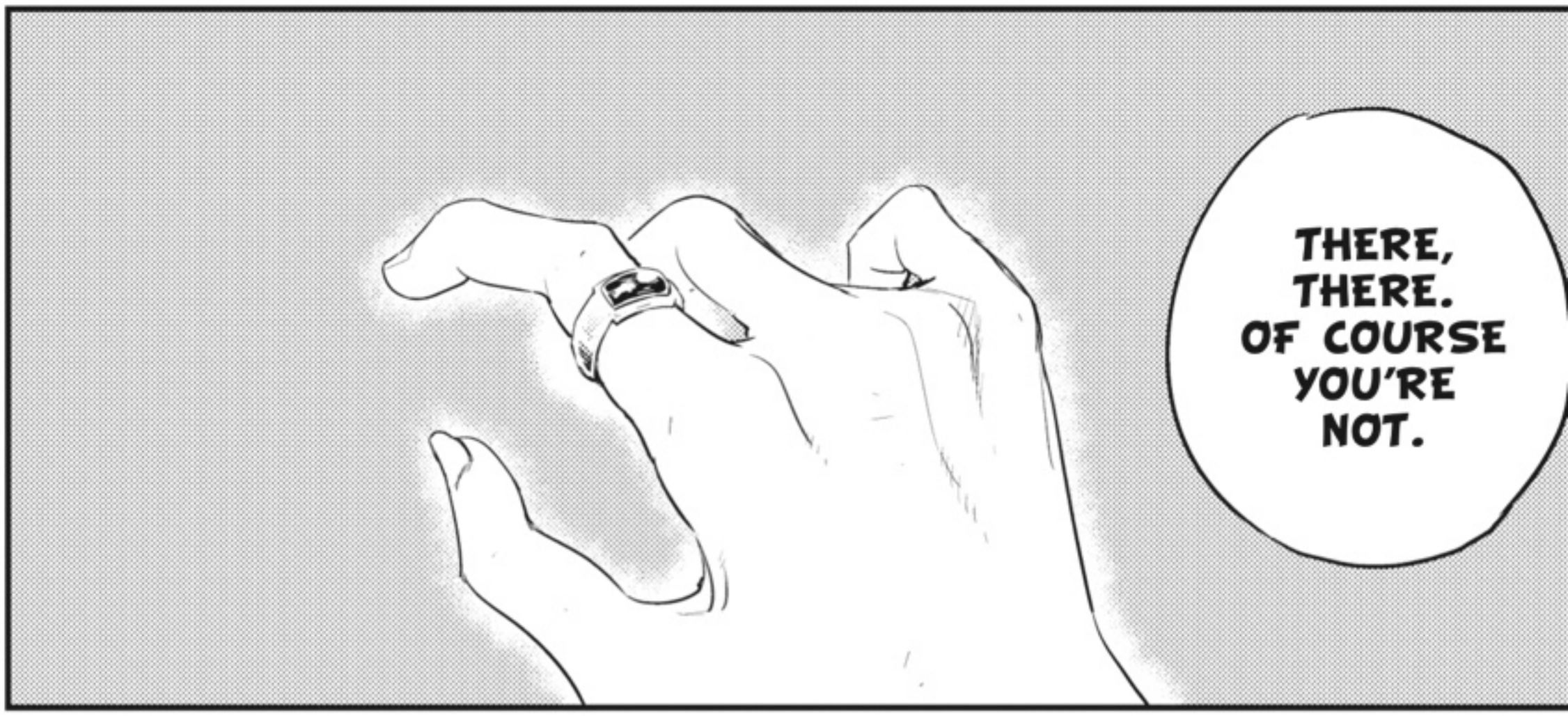
I SAID, I'M NOT —

HERE, THERE'S ONE FOR YOU.

...DON'T WANT IT. I'M NOT COLD.

...I'M NOT COLD...

ACHOO!


THERE, THERE. OF COURSE YOU'RE NOT.

HEH-HEH! NOW YOU'RE REALLY STUCK WITH US!

ALL RIGHT, LADIES.
IT'S TIME TO SHUT THOSE TRAPS AND START LOOKING SCARED.

THE FORTRESS IS JUST AHEAD.

HEAR ME!

O MY BRETHREN, OPEN THIS GATE!

I AM A PRIEST OF THE EYE OF THE GREEN MOON, A SERVANT OF THE GOD OF EXTERNAL KNOWLEDGE!

HMM...
GOSO (RUSTLE)
I DON'T KNOW.
YOU THINK THIS GOBLIN PALADIN OR WHATEVER IS STRONG, BEARD-CUTTER?
TO MAKE SURE WE'RE READY FOR HIM IF HE REALLY IS, HMM?
BUT WE MUST ASSUME HE IS STRONGER THAN US.

BROTHERS! YE WHO HAVE SHARED IN HIS KNOWLEDGE! OPEN NOW THIS GATE!

BY THE BLUE EYE OF THE GOD OF EXTERNAL KNOWLEDGE!

GI (CREAK)

GI

GI

GI

GI

GI

IT'S ALL RIGHT.

GOBLIN SLAYER IS HERE, AND SO ARE THE REST OF US.

THEY'RE COMING.

GIII (CREAAAK)

...THAT'S NOT HIM!

NO!

LOOKS MORE LIKE A PLAIN OLD GOBLIN WITH PRETENSIONS OF BEING A PRIEST THAN A PALADIN.
DO... YOU THINK THAT'S THE GOBLIN PALADIN?

SHH... YOU'RE ALL RIGHT.

INDEED. THESE TWO ARE MY LOYAL SERVANTS.

I REQUEST AN AUDIENCE WITH THE HONORED PALADIN WHO RULES THIS FORTRESS.

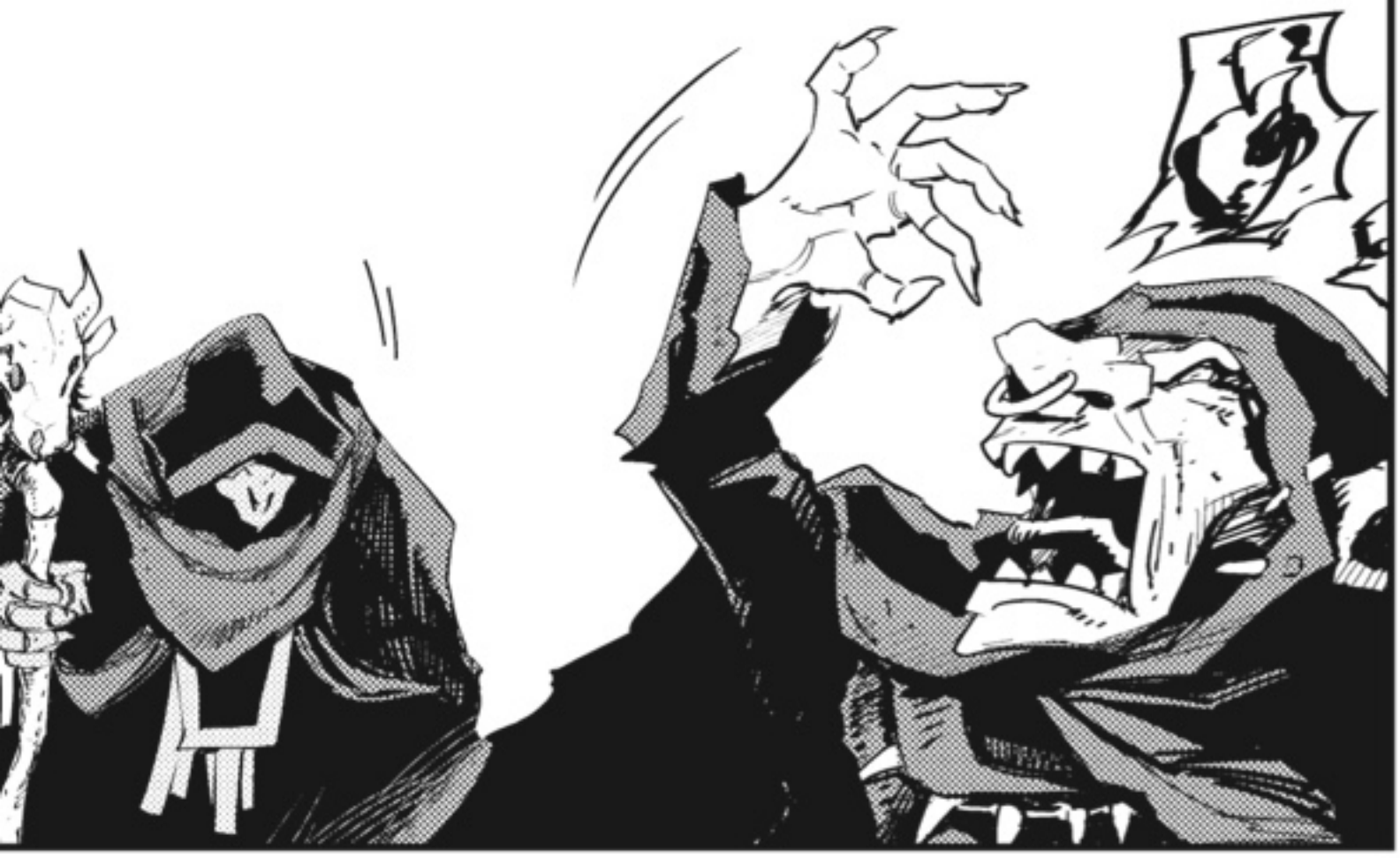
YES, BUT OF COURSE.

WE WILL HAVE TO CUT OFF THEIR LIMBS SO THEY CANNOT RUN AWAY.

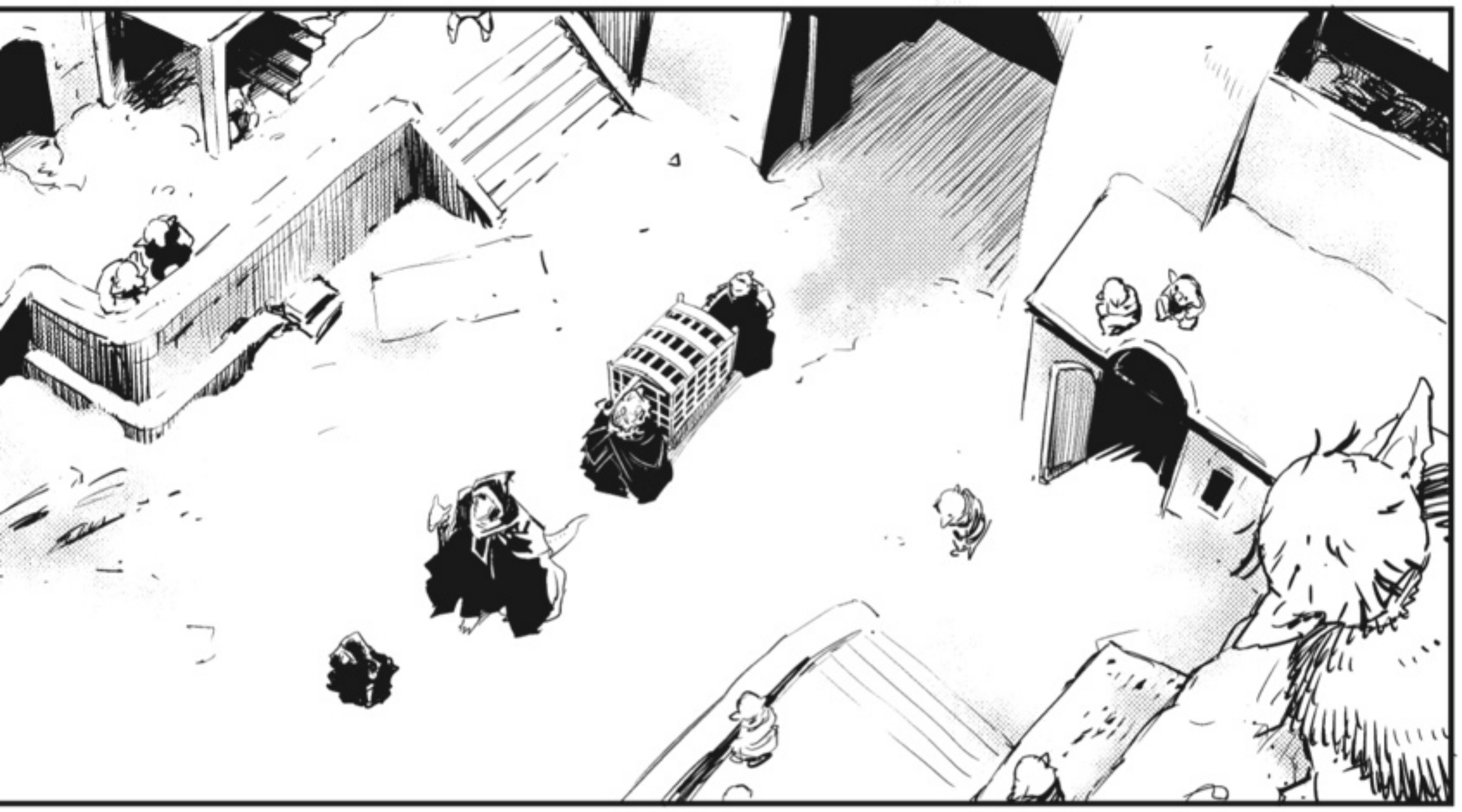
LET US THROW THEM IN THE DUNGEON, THEN.

A MIRACLE OF TELEPATHY— "COMMUNICATE"

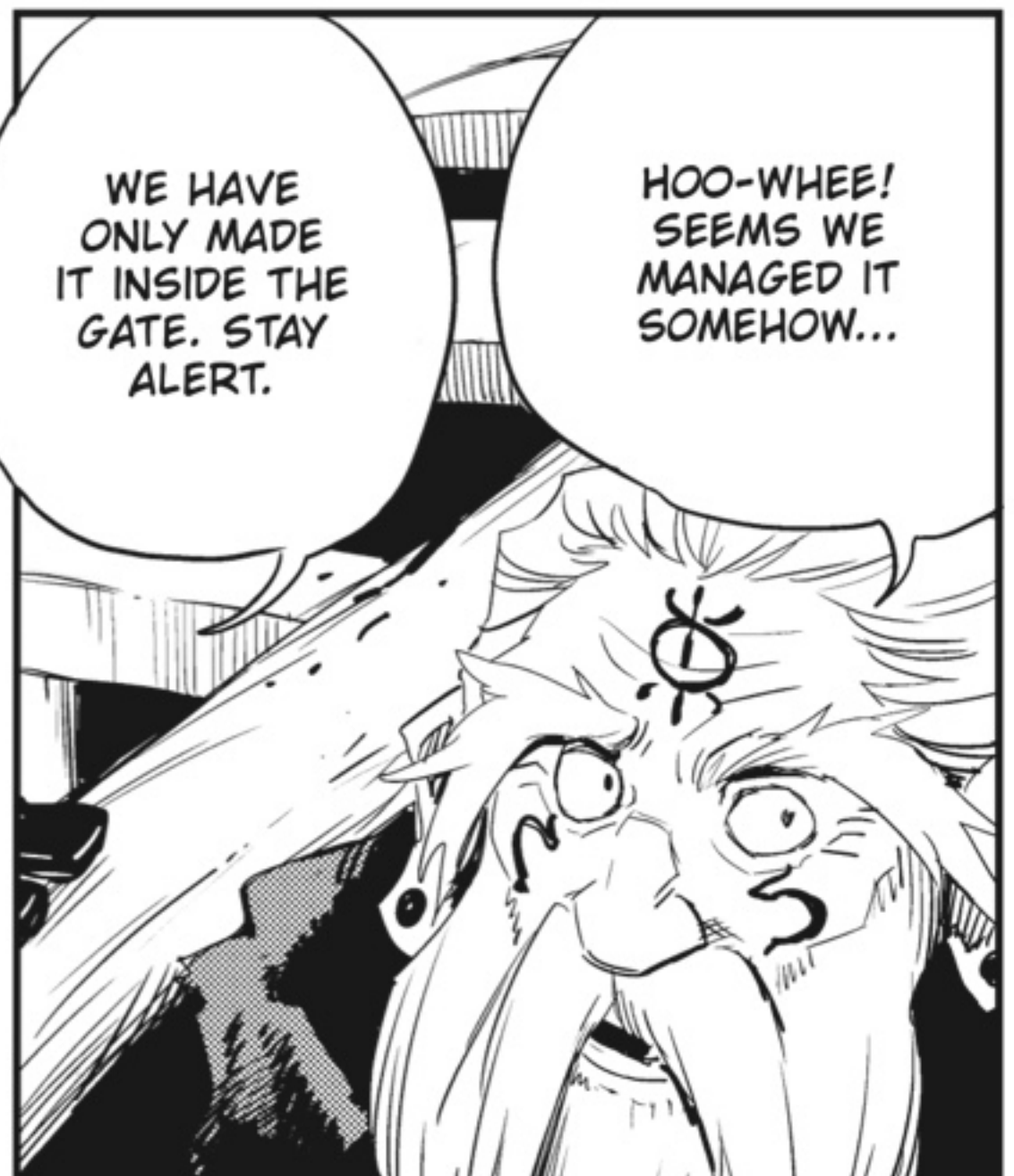
AND THE OTHERS ARE A GIFT, A TOKEN OF MY RESPECT FOR YOUR LEADER.



FUNSU
(SNORT)

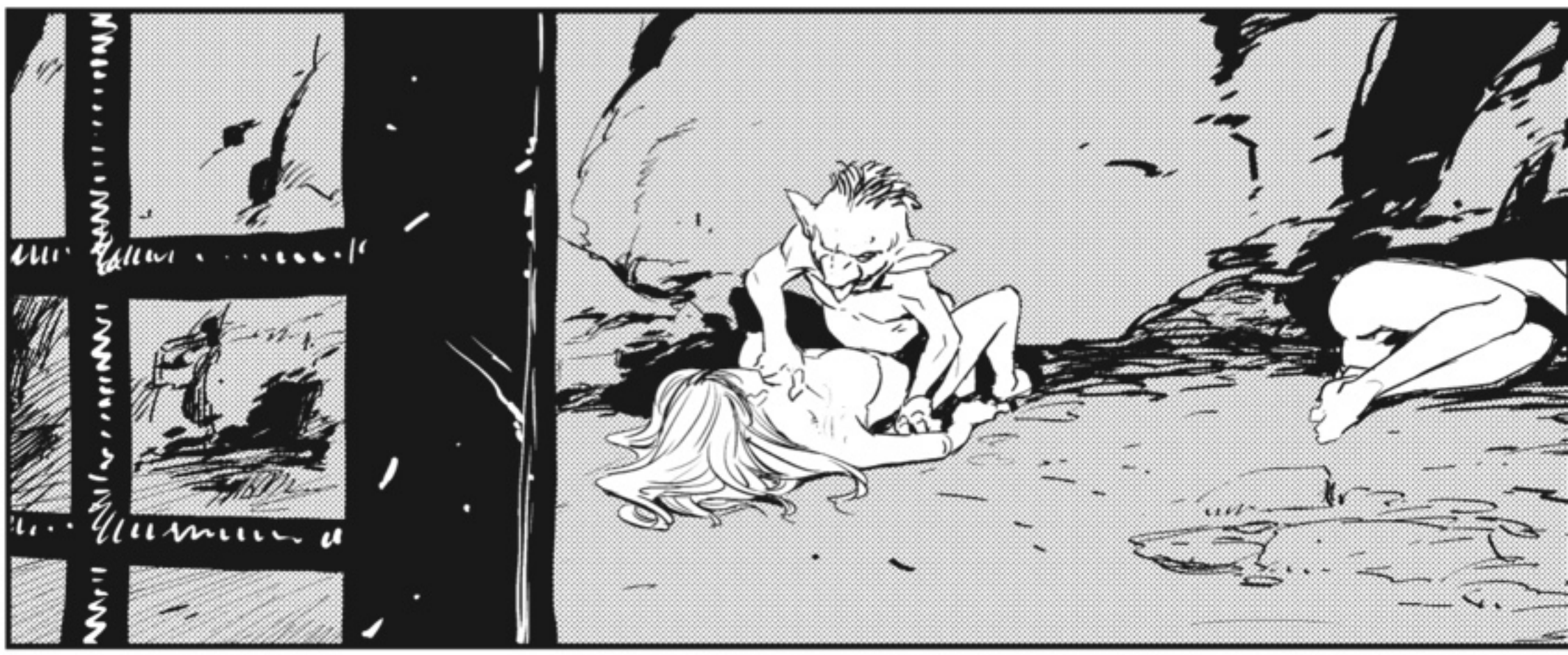


...SO THAT IS THE COMMUNICATE MIRACLE.
SOMEDAY I REALLY MAY HAVE TO LEARN HOW TO SPEAK THE GOBLINS' LANGUAGE...


WE HAVE ONLY MADE IT INSIDE THE GATE. STAY ALERT.
HOO-WHEE! SEEMS WE MANAGED IT SOMEHOW...

WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING...
FILTHY CREATURES DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY HAVE HERE...
...THIS IS A DWARVEN FORTRESS FROM THE AGE OF THE GODS, RIGHT?

BRING THE SACRIFICES THROUGH HERE.
HE SAYS IT IS THIS WAY.

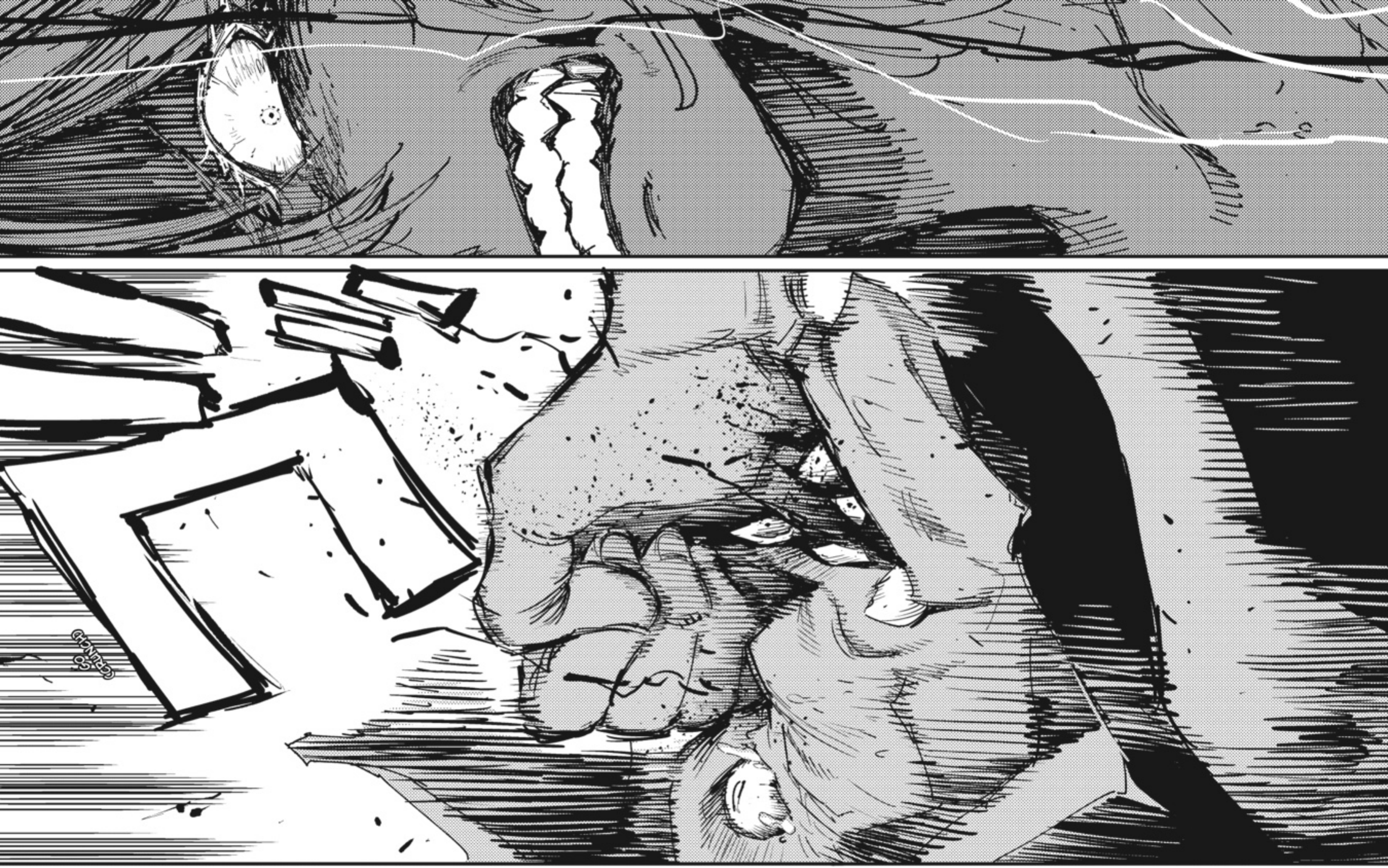


AHHH ...!

GUI (CLUTCH)

AAAAAAH!!
GA (GRAB)

BA (FWIP)
DO (SLAM)
HEY, WHAT ARE YOU —!!?


CRUNCH

GO
CHAPTER 48
GO
GOSHA
CTHWAM

AAAAAHH!!

GOCHI (CHOK)

GO

GO

AH!

GA (THWAK)

ST-STOP, PLEASE ...!

HU

RRRRAAAA!!!

GO (CRUNCH)

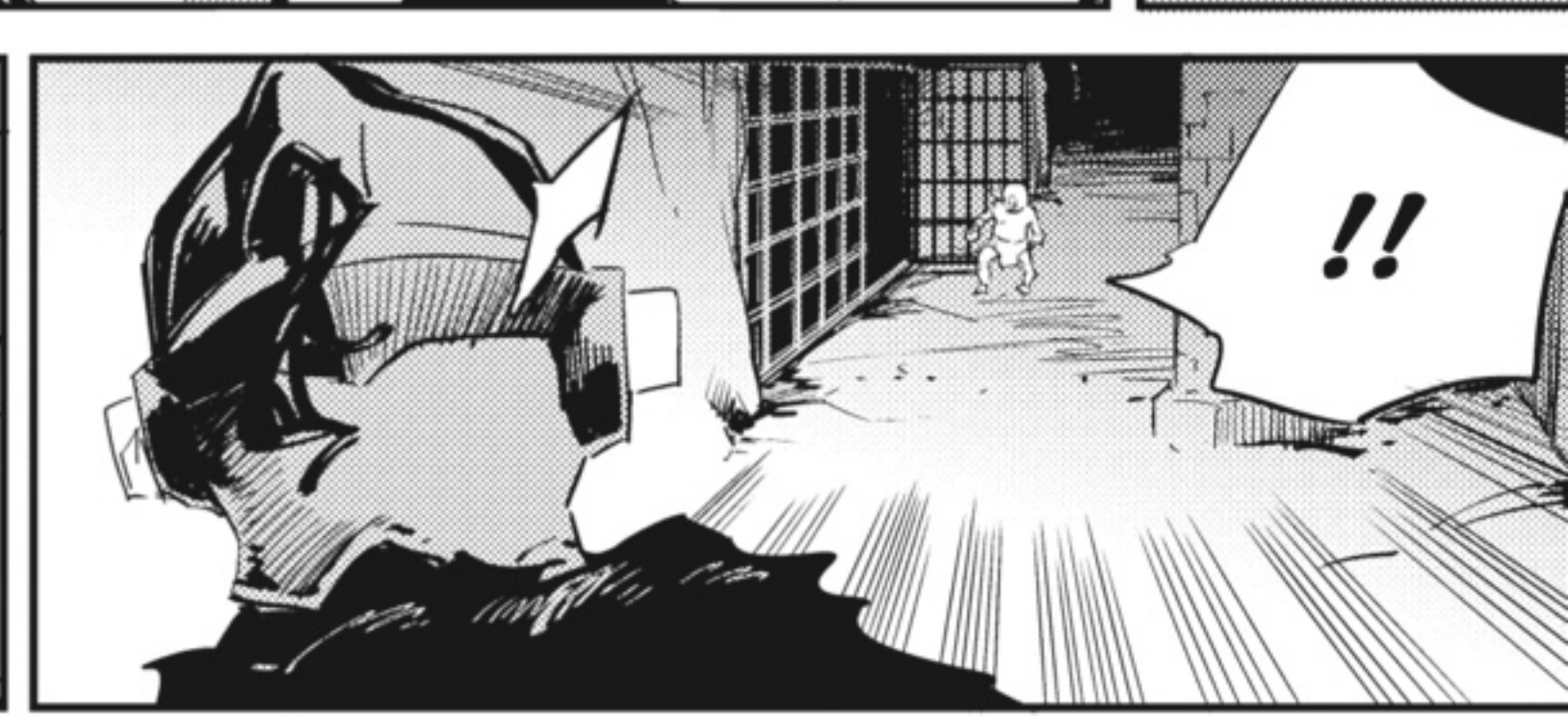
GO

GO

GO

HHHHHHHH!!!

HEY, COME ON!
GET A GRIP...!


!!

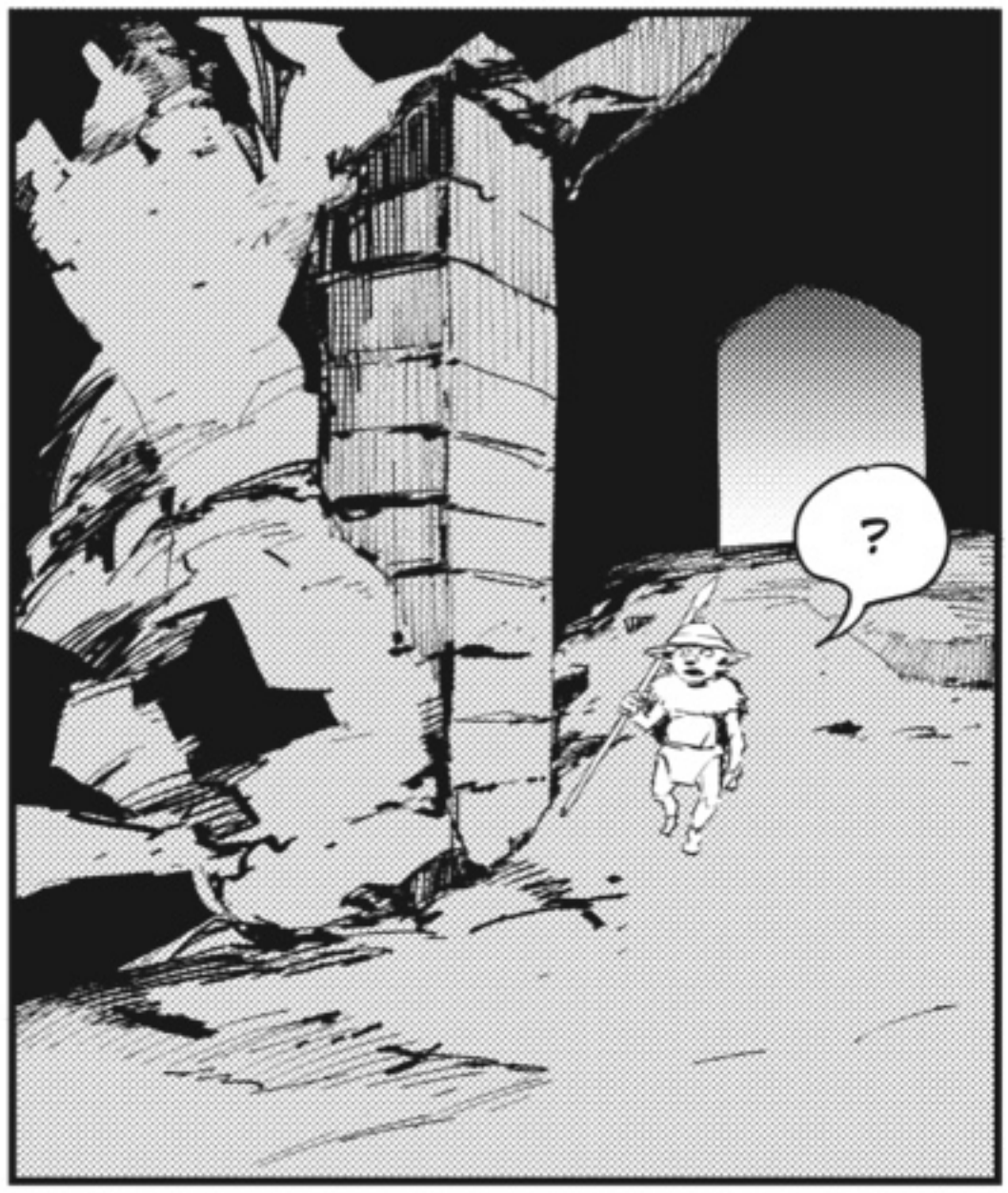
TCH.

DO (THOK)

DA (DASH)

DA

DA



!

NAH, LASSIE. NO SOUND AT ALL'LL SEEM JUST AS ODD.
IN WHICH CASE...
UM... SHOULD I USE SILENCE ...?

DO (WHAM)
...GRIP!
I TOLD YOU TO GET... A...
QUIT IT...!

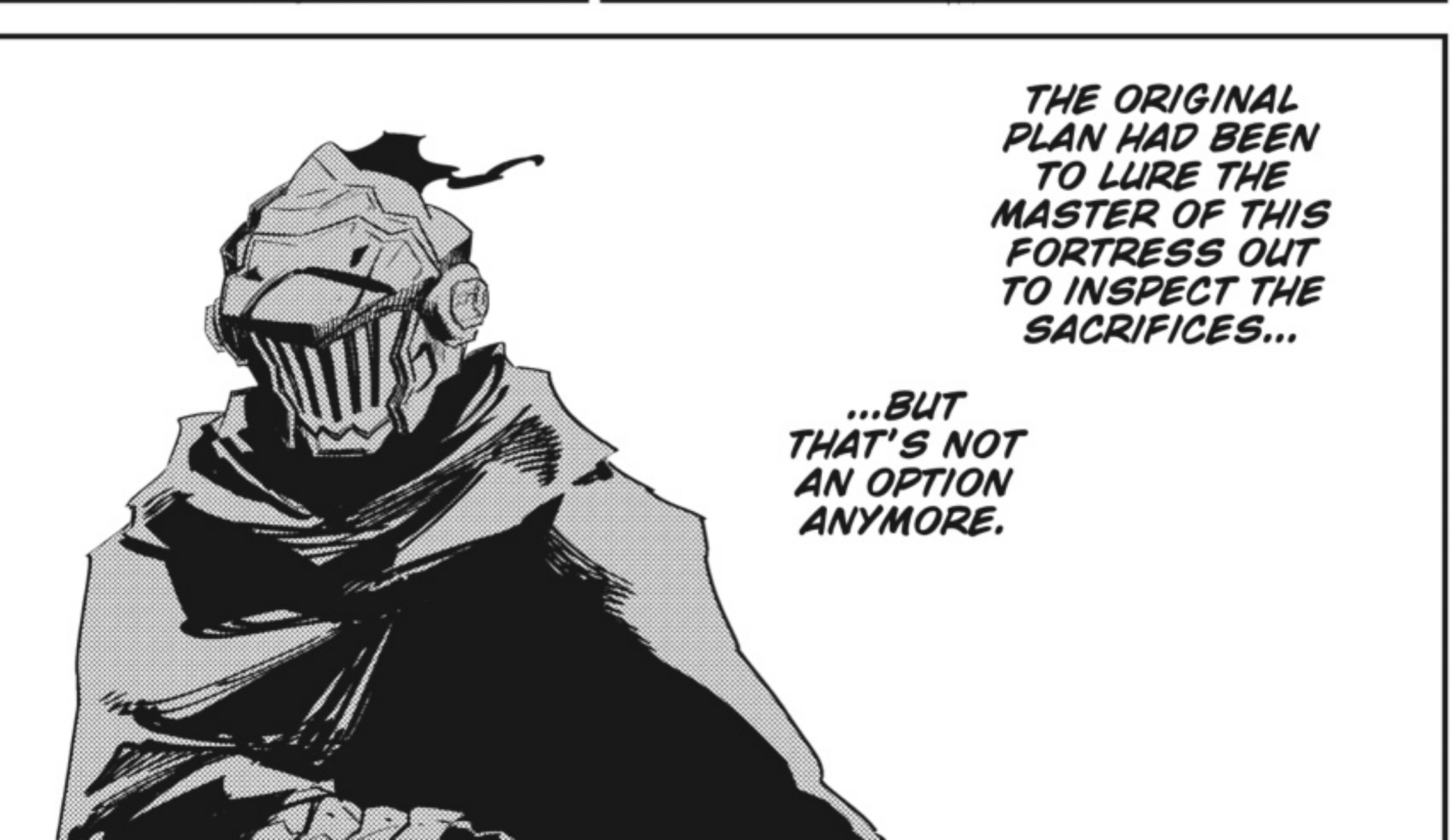
SUU (INHALE)
Y-YEAH, FINE. HERE GOES...

WHAT?
BWUH !?
MISTRESS RANGER, GIVE US A GOOD SCREAM!
WHO, M-ME!?

AAAAUGH!!

HE MIGHT BE BACK LATER...

Y-YEEEEEEEEEK!!
NG, STGGG-GGGP!


THE ORIGINAL PLAN HAD BEEN TO LURE THE MASTER OF THIS FORTRESS OUT TO INSPECT THE SACRIFICES...
...BUT THAT'S NOT AN OPTION ANYMORE.

ALL RIGHT, JUST WHAT WERE YOU THINKING!?

...WELL, I EXPECTED AS MUCH.

I HAVE TO KILL THE GOBLINS.

OH, FOR THE LOVE OF—!

SO WHY'D YOU START A FIGHT IN HERE!!?

WE TOLD YOU HOW THIS WAS GOING TO WORK!

YOU SHOULD BE ANGRIER THAN ANYONE!

EEP!

BETTER FOR HER TO BE WHERE WE CAN SEE HER THAN OFF CAUSING TROUBLE ON HER OWN.

WE HAD NO OTHER CHOICE.

THIS IS WHY I WAS AGAINST BRINGING HER...!

YES, DO CALM DOWN...

REALLY, I'M FINE...

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO GOT HURT WHEN SHE WENT BERSERK!

YOU'RE WOUNDED! THAT'S THE EXACT OPPOSITE OF FINE...!

SO—

ORCBOLG...! BUT SHE WAS THE ONE WHO WANTED TO COME ALONG...!

CALM DOWN.

SAVE YOUR MIRACLES.

INDEED. UNDER-STOOD.

SCALY, GIVE ME A HAND WHEN YOU'RE DONE THERE.

I'LL CHECK THE CAPTIVES, SEE WHETHER THERE ARE ANY SURVIVORS.

GOOD.

I PRESUME YOU DO NOT MIND IF WE TEND TO THE INJURIES OF ANY WOUNDED WE FIND?

THIS ISN'T SOMETHING WE CAN JUST SHRUG OFF.

.....

I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL, MY DEAR.

BUT THIS MAY NOT BE THE BEST TIME.

ARE THESE GOBLINS OPERATING OVER A WIDE AREA? LED BY WHOEVER RULES HERE...?
SO— WERE THESE CAPTIVES TAKEN FROM SOMEWHERE ELSE?
...THE VILLAGERS SAID THAT NONE OF THEIR WOMEN HAD BEEN KIDNAPPED.

WHY'D YOU BRING THAT GIRL ANYWAY?
JOIN THE CLUB!
...I DON'T LIKE IT.

WE ARE HERE NOW. WE WILL CARVE A PATH OUT, OR WE WILL NOT GET HOME.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD GIVE HER A GOOD SPANKING. THAT MIGHT STRAIGHTEN HER OUT!

BECAUSE WE NEED HER.
OH, DO WE...?
HA!

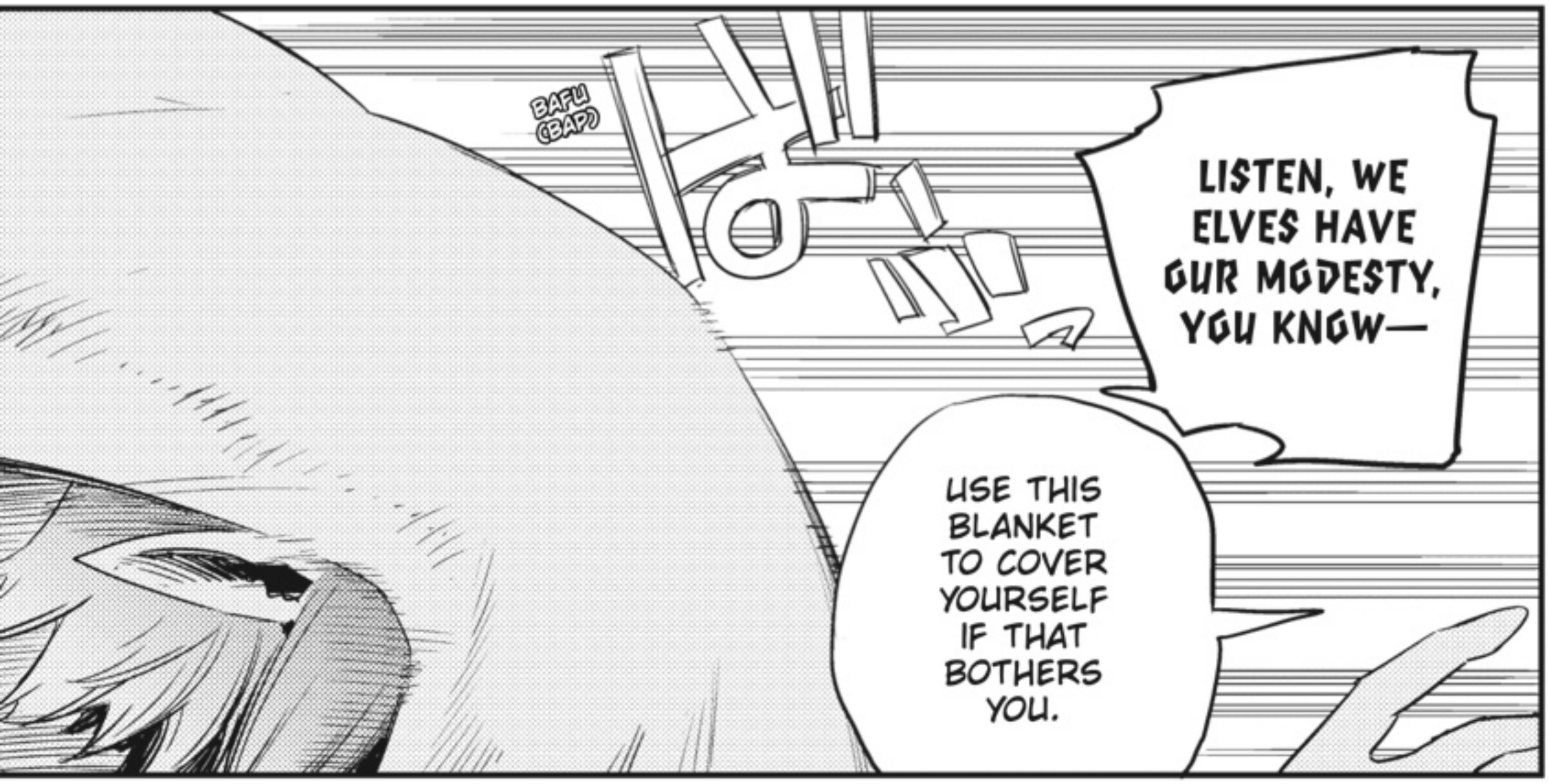
I KNOW THAT.

I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT GOBLIN SLAYING!

WE ARE HUNTING GOBLINS. ONCE YOU BEGIN, THERE IS ONLY VICTORY OR DEFEAT.

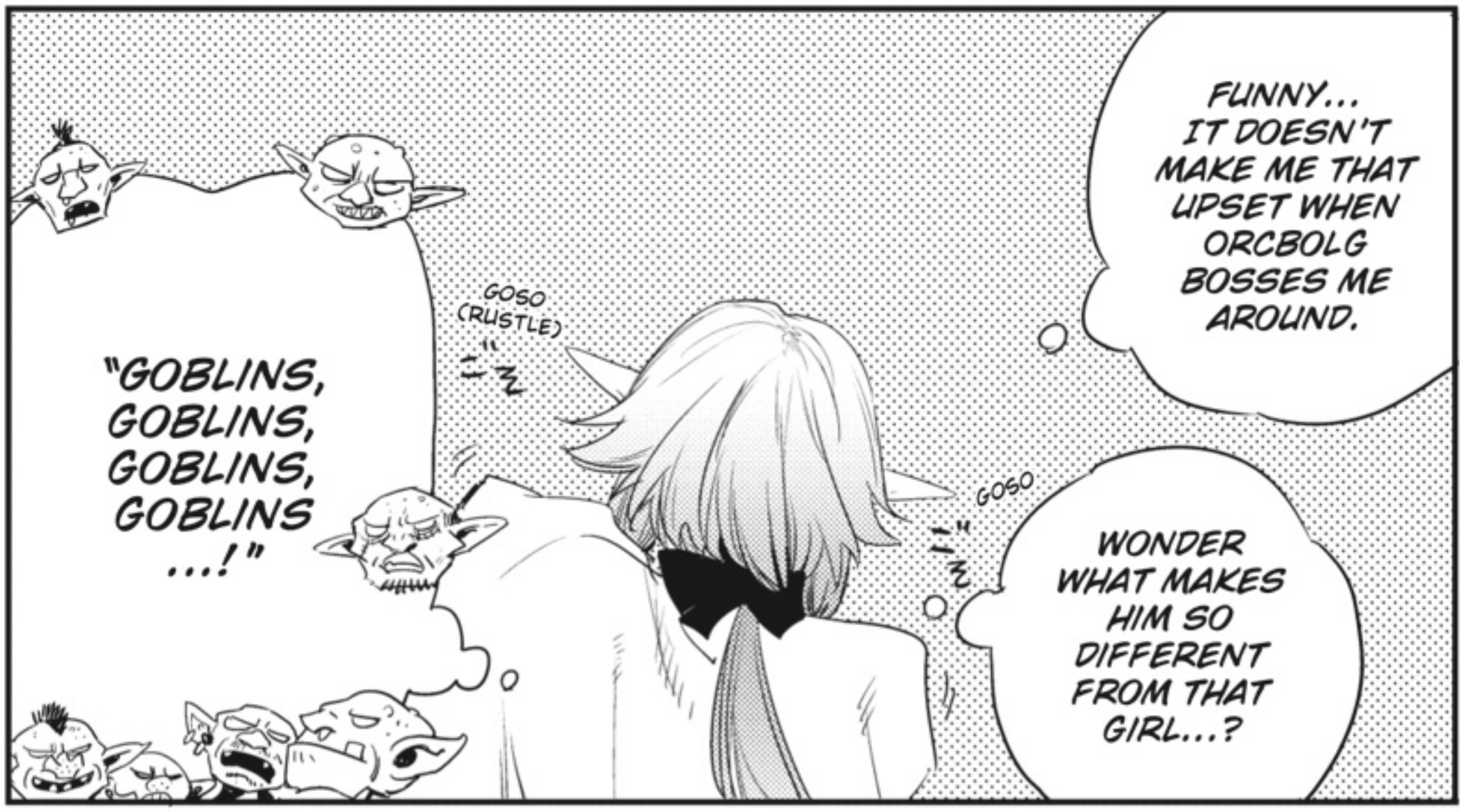
BELIEVE ME, I KNOW.

HUH!?
!?
CHANGE? HERE!?
I'M GOING TO STAND GUARD. CHECK ON THE PRISONERS AND HEAL WHO YOU CAN.
THEN CHANGE CLOTHES AND GET YOUR EQUIPMENT READY.
GOSO (RUSTLE)


BAFU (BAP)
LISTEN, WE ELVES HAVE OUR MODESTY, YOU KNOW—
USE THIS BLANKET TO COVER YOURSELF IF THAT BOTHERS YOU.

.....

I JUST DON'T GET HIM...
HUMANS! THEY'VE GOT NO RESPECT!
BAH... I CAN'T EVEN FIND IT IN ME TO BE ANGRY AT HIM.


"GOBLINS, GOBLINS, GOBLINS, GOBLINS ...!"
GOSO (RUSTLE)
FUNNY... IT DOESN'T MAKE ME THAT UPSET WHEN ORCBOLG BOSSES ME AROUND.
GOSO
WONDER WHAT MAKES HIM SO DIFFERENT FROM THAT GIRL...?

...THERE REALLY IS JUST ONE THING TO DO, ISN'T THERE?

...THIS IS THE WORST...
PASHI (SMAK)

IT HAPPENS.

TO YOU, TO THE GIRL...

TO ME.

HEY, ORCBOLG? I'M SORRY.

I JUST...

...GOT A LITTLE ANGRY.

WHAT, EVEN YOU, ORCBOLG?

SURE DOESN'T SEEM LIKE IT.

SURE IS.

IS THAT SO?

I SEE.

THAT'S RIGHT.

.....

BASA (FLUTTER)

YOU CAN BE SURPRISINGLY CONSIDERATE, ORCBOLG.

...IS THAT SO?

WHEN GOBLIN SLAYER REALLY WANTS TO SAY SOMETHING, HE GOES QUIET.

FOREMOST RESEARCHER IN GOBLIN SLAYER STUDIES

!

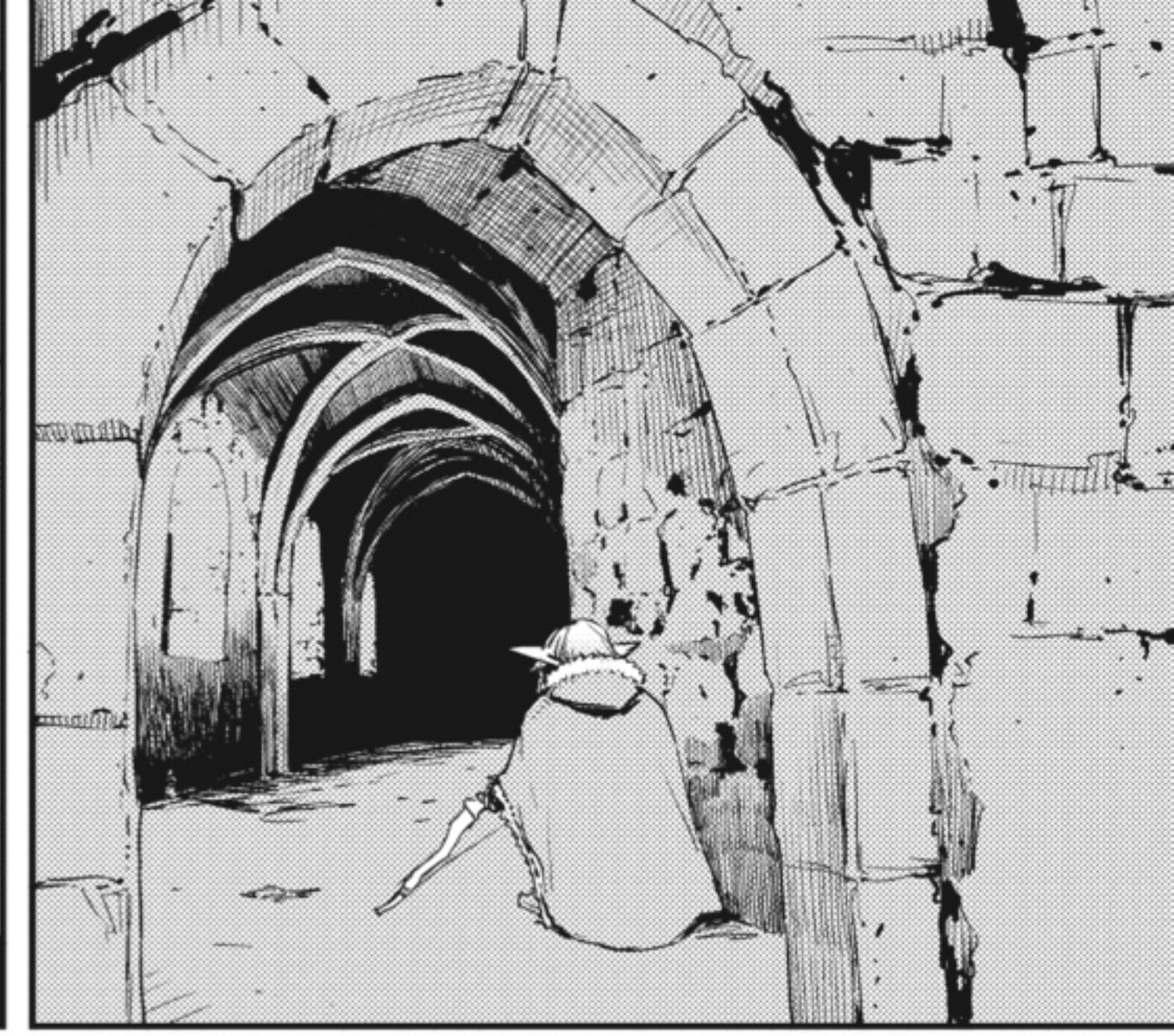
...I CAN TELL THE OTHERS.

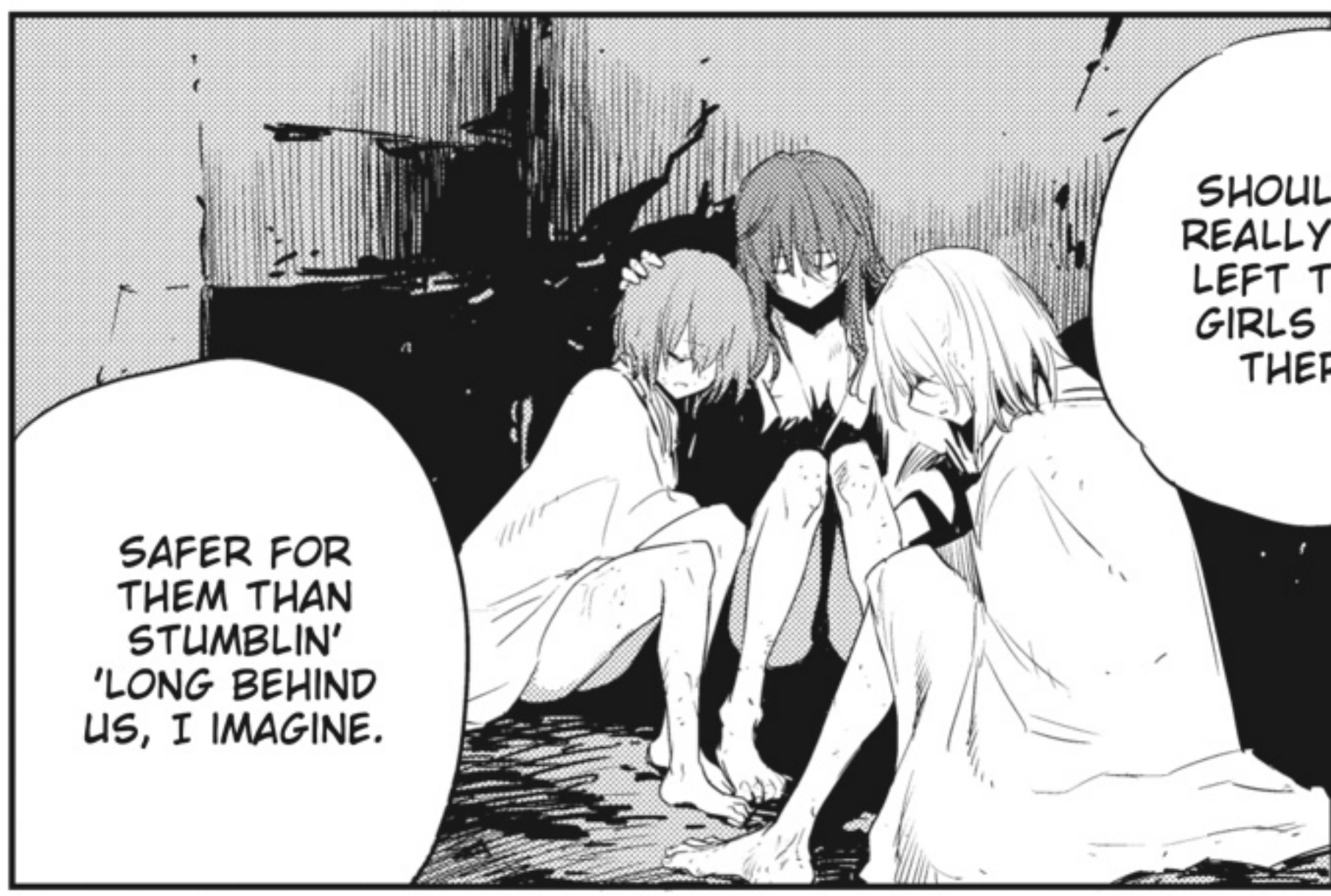
IF YOU WANT...

NAH, I'LL TELL THEM MYSELF.

THANKS, THOUGH.

...NO ONE THERE.
ALL RIGHT.




SAFER FOR THEM THAN STUMBLIN' 'LONG BEHIND US, I IMAGINE.
SHOULD WE REALLY HAVE LEFT THOSE GIRLS BACK THERE?

BOTH. WE WILL START WITH WEAPONS.
NO. FIRST WE SHOULD HEAD FOR THEIR STOREHOUSE.
SO, BEARD-CUTTER. WHERE'S OUR NEXT STOP?
FOR FOOD, OR FOR WEAPONS?
TOP OF THE TOWER?

SORRY...!

NEVER SEEN A BLADE LIKE THAT BEFORE.

A MASTERWORK, CLEARLY— BUT WHAT'S IT MADE OF?

CAN'T SAY I'VE HEARD OF IT. MIND IF I HAVE A LOOK?

ALU-MINUM, EH...

IT WAS FORGED FROM A RED GEM WITH LIGHTNING.

.....

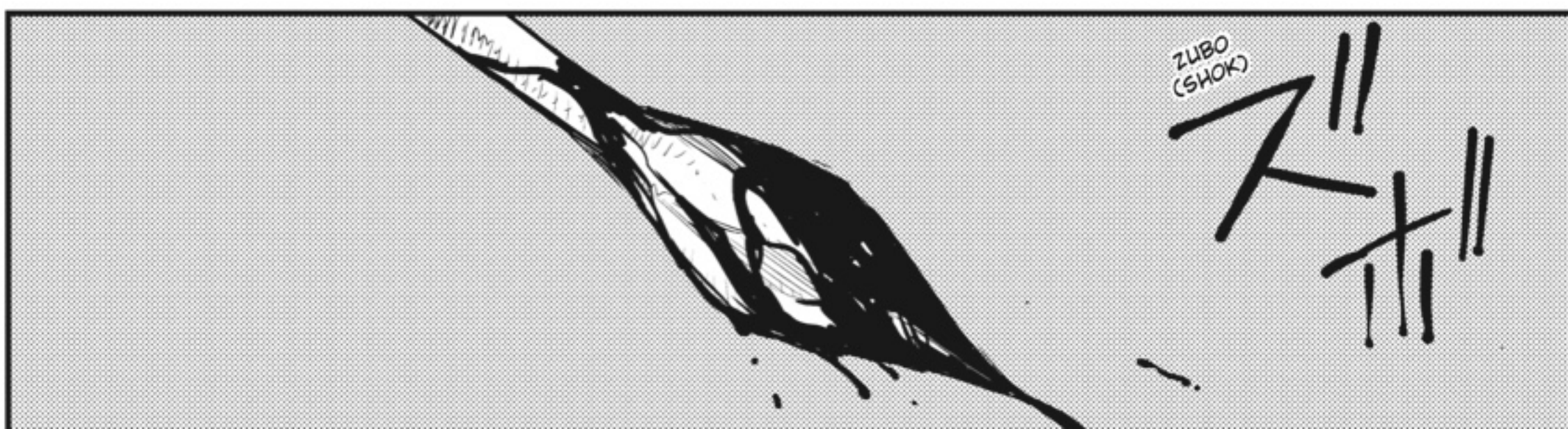
ALUMINUM.

GIRO (GLARE)

ギロ

BA
(SHCK)

DO
(THOK)


ZUBO
(SHOK)

IDEAS? WELL, LET'S SEE...

OH!

WE HAVE TO HIDE THE BODIES.

ANY IDEAS?

GAH!?

TAPA

TAPA (GLUG)

THE WHOLE FLASK.

DWARF! GIMME YOUR WINE.

WHAT, NEED A PICK-ME-UP?

JUST HAND IT OVER.

THEY SIMPLY LOOK LIKE THEY FELL ASLEEP DRINKING ON THE JOB.

NOW WE ARRANGE THEM SO THE WOUNDS AREN'T OBVIOUS, AND VOILÀ!

A GOOD IDEA.

DID YEH REALLY HAVE TO USE ALL OF IT...!?

AFTER KINDLE AND COMMUNICATE, SCALY AND I EACH HAVE THREE.

I HAVEN'T USED ANY OF MINE YET, SO I'VE STILL GOT THREE...

LET'S TAKE STOCK.

MY POOR WINE!

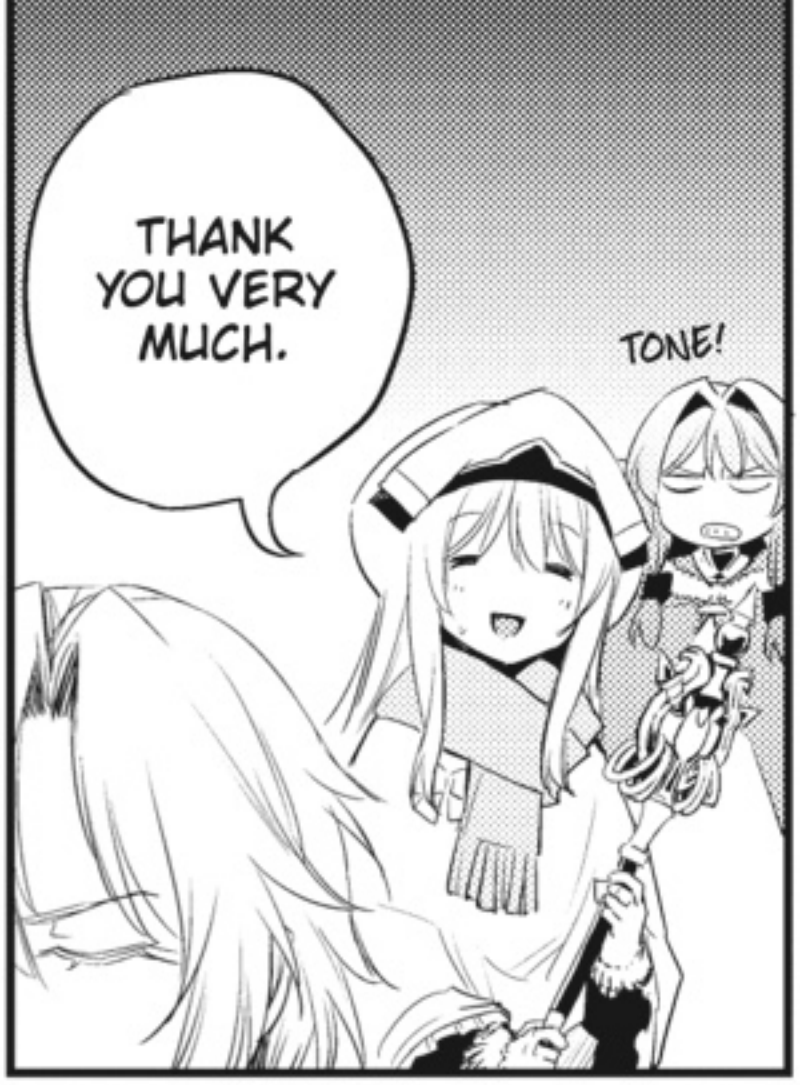
SO... NINE TOTAL, THEN?

HOW MANY SPELLS AND MIRACLES DO YOU EACH HAVE LEFT?

I SEEM TO RECALL THE YOUNG LADY SAYIN' SHE HAD A SPELL...

...TWO.

THAT MEANS ELEVEN IN ALL.
.....


THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
TONE!

SAVE YOUR TWO LIGHTNING SPELLS.
!

WILL THAT LET ME...
...KILL GOBLINS?
IF ALL GOES WELL, YES.

I MUST AGREE, SPEED IS OF THE ESSENCE.

WHERE DO YOU SUPPOSE THE ARMORY WOULD BE?

YOU STILL CRYING OVER SPILLED BOOZE?

HAAAAH...

MY WINE...

GODS! WHEN WE GET BACK TO THE TAVERN, YOU'RE TREATIN' ME TILL I DRINK THE PLACE DRY!

GOOD QUES-TION.

AND SINCE IT'S A DWARVEN FORTRESS... I MIGHT EVEN BE ABLE T' ANSWER IT.

GOOD... I'M GLAD TO SEE THEY'RE ALL BACK TO NORMAL.

YEAH, YEAH, AS MUCH AS YOU WANT. JUST QUIT WHINING.

I TOO SHALL FURNISH REFRESHMENT, SO WE MAY TOAST MISTRESS RANGER'S FINE IDEA.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING...?
THOUGH IT'S A SIMPLIFIED PRAYER, SINCE WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME.
PRAYING FOR THE REPOSE OF THEIR SOULS...
THAT'S NOT NECESSARY.

BUT IN DEATH, ALL BEINGS ARE THE SAME—

IT'S NOT NECESSARY, I SAID!!

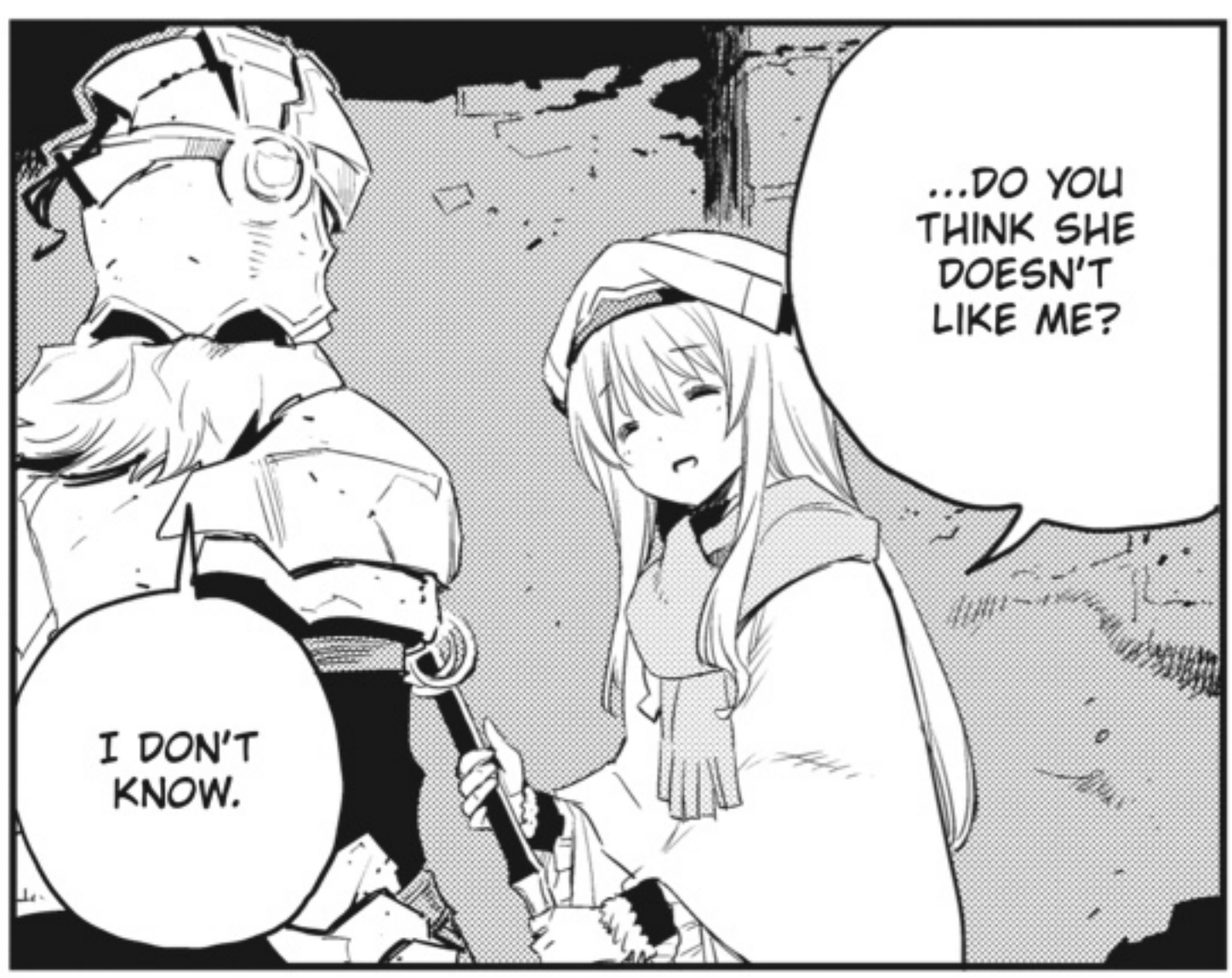
DOKA (KICK)

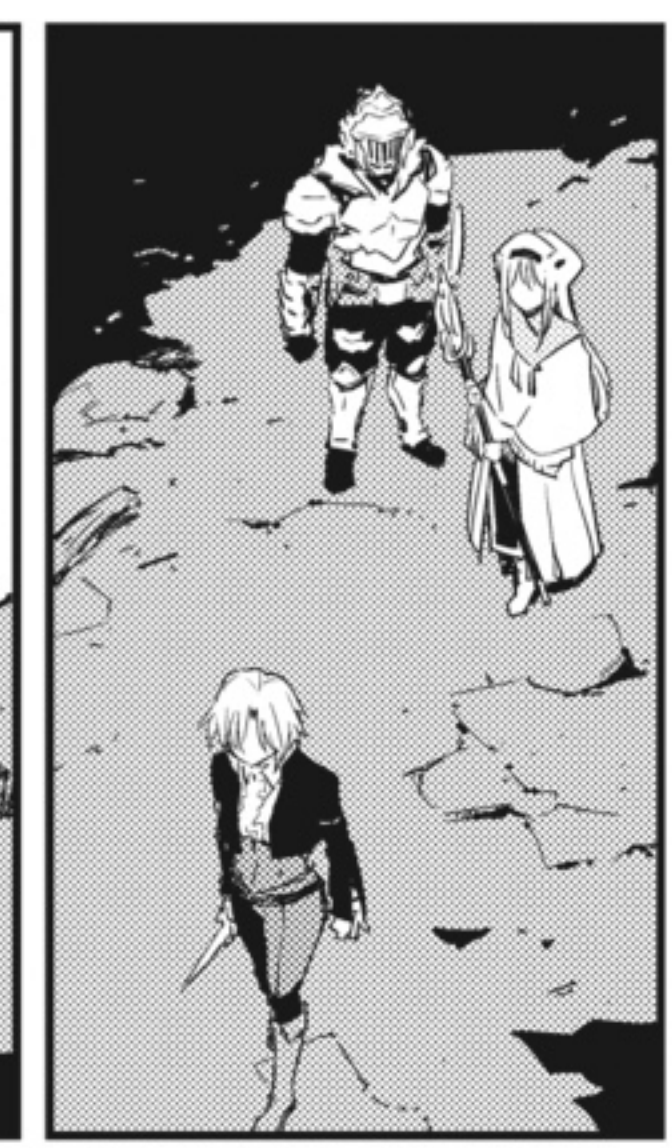
IT'S WAST-ED—

—ON THESE WORTH-LESS SONS OF...!!

ARE YOU DONE PRAYING?

IF SO, LET'S GO.





I JUST...
...CAN'T SEEM TO LEAVE HER ON HER OWN.

HMM...

DO YOU WANT HER TO LIKE YOU?

YES...

...I THINK I DO.

I SEE.

THEN YOU SHOULD MAKE FRIENDS WITH HER.

I WILL!

BUT THIS WAY, I CAN HEAL YOU AT ONCE IF ANYTHING GOES WRONG.
PICKING LOCKS ISN'T MY SPECIALTY...
TAKE A STEP BACK. YOU DON'T WANT TO BE NEAR ME IF THIS THING IS BOOBY-TRAPPED.

WELL, IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT. WHICH MIRACLES YOU GET IS UP TO THE GODS, RIGHT?
HONESTLY, I WISH I HAD THE PRECOG OR LUCK MIRACLES...

CHAPTER 49

THE ONE THING I CAN BE SURE OF IS THAT IF THERE ARE TRAPS HERE, THE GOBLINS WILL HAVE PUT THEM TO USE.

SCHEMING LITTLE BASTARDS...

NO TELLING WHAT KINDS OF TRAPS MIGHT SHOW UP IN A DWARVEN FORTRESS FROM THE AGE OF THE GODS...

GOT IT.

GACHA (KACHAK)

チャ

BAN (BAM)

BA (WHOOSH)

I'LL GET US SOME LIGHT.

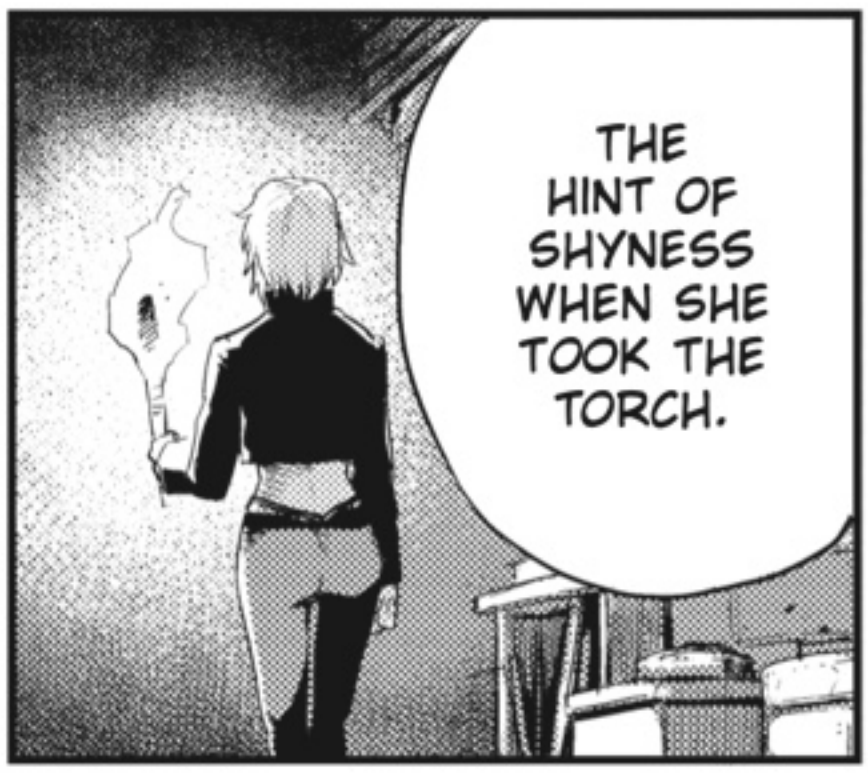
PLEASE.

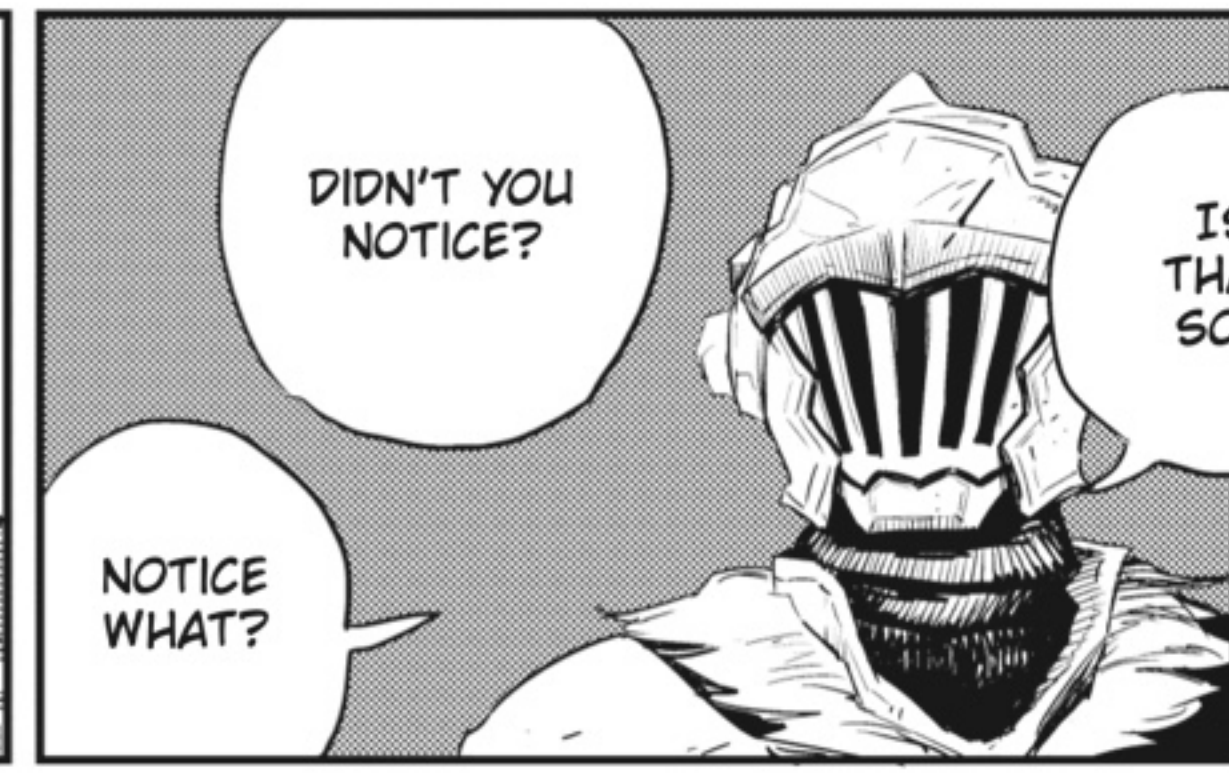
LOOKS CLEAR TO ME.

.....?
!
HERE, IF YOU DON'T MIND?
IF I DON'T MIND... WHAT?
THE TORCH.
COULD YOU HOLD IT?
...ALL RIGHT.
.....

WHY DID YOU GIVE HER THE TORCH?

SHE WAS HURTING FROM BEING LEFT OUT. I WANTED TO GIVE HER A PART TO PLAY.





MAKES SENSE TO ME.

WITH A GOBLIN PALADIN TO LEAD THEM...

THIS IS A DWARVEN FORTRESS, AFTER ALL. MUST BE SOME ORE DEPOSITS AT THE VERY LEAST.

...I EXPECT THEY'RE DOING MORE THAN SIMPLY EXPANDING THE NEST.

COULD THE GOBLINS BE FORGING SWORDS...?

HRM...

OY, LASS! C'MERE.

...?

I BELIEVE I HAVE A SPELL THAT MAY HELP WITH THAT.

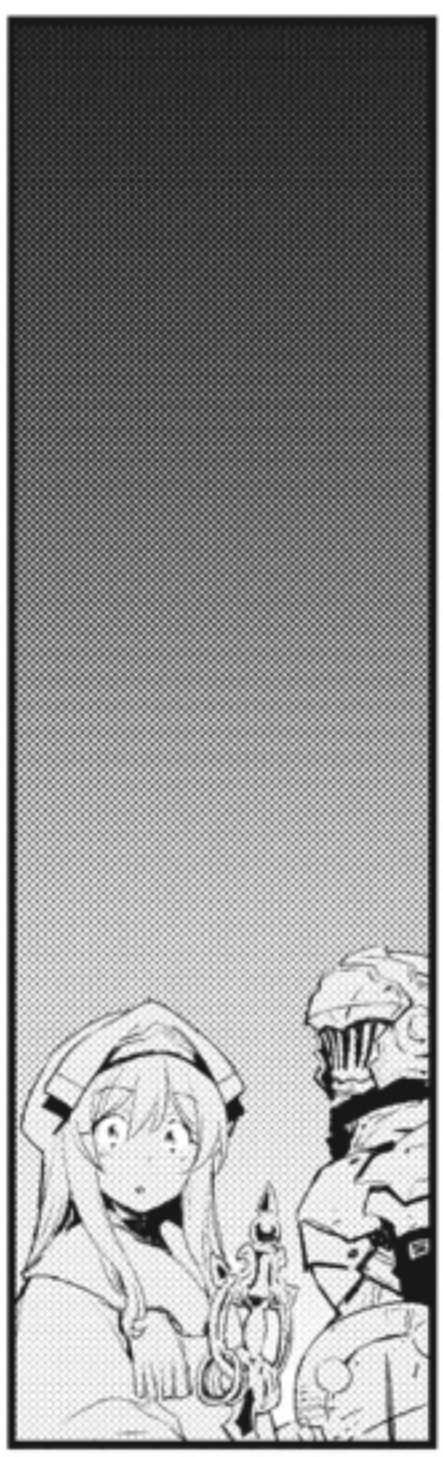
I NEED BUT A MOMENT TO PREPARE.

WHATEVER THEY ARE PLANNING, WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THESE TOOLS...

!
BEARD-CUTTER AIN'T EXACTLY KIND TO HIS TOYS.
GIMME A HAND. WE OUGHTTA BRING SOME OF THESE WEAPONS WITH US.

...!
PICK A SWORD OR SOMETHING AND—
AND YOU NEED MORE THAN JUST THAT LITTLE DAGGER.

HEE HEE!
I BELIEVE I MAKE GOOD USE OF THEM.



...A WEAP-ON!
I DON'T NEED...
NO.

NOW WE'RE GETTIN' TO KNOW EACH OTHER!

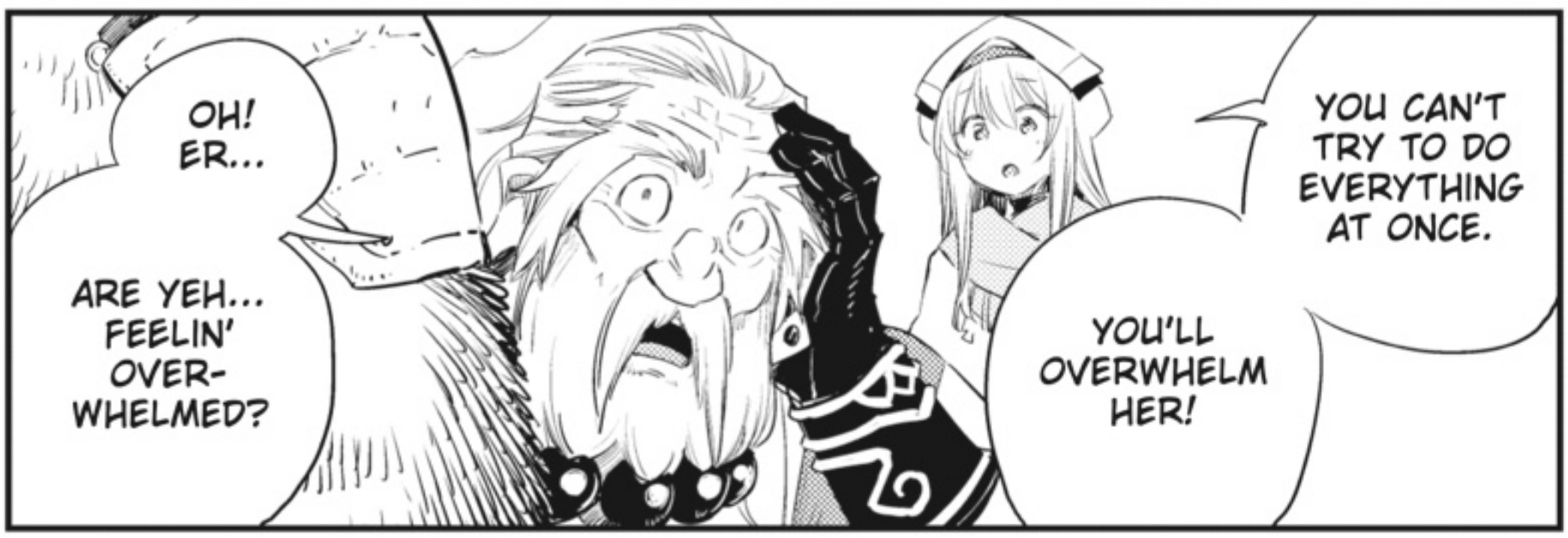
SO YOU AREN'T INTERESTED IN GEAR. GOTCHA!

Y'DON'T SAY?

PAN (SLAM)

?
?
OH, LEAVE THE POOR GIRL ALONE.

MAYBE I SHOULD HELP HER...


OH! ER...
ARE YEH... FEELIN' OVER-WHELMED?
YOU'LL OVERWHELM HER!
YOU CAN'T TRY TO DO EVERYTHING AT ONCE.

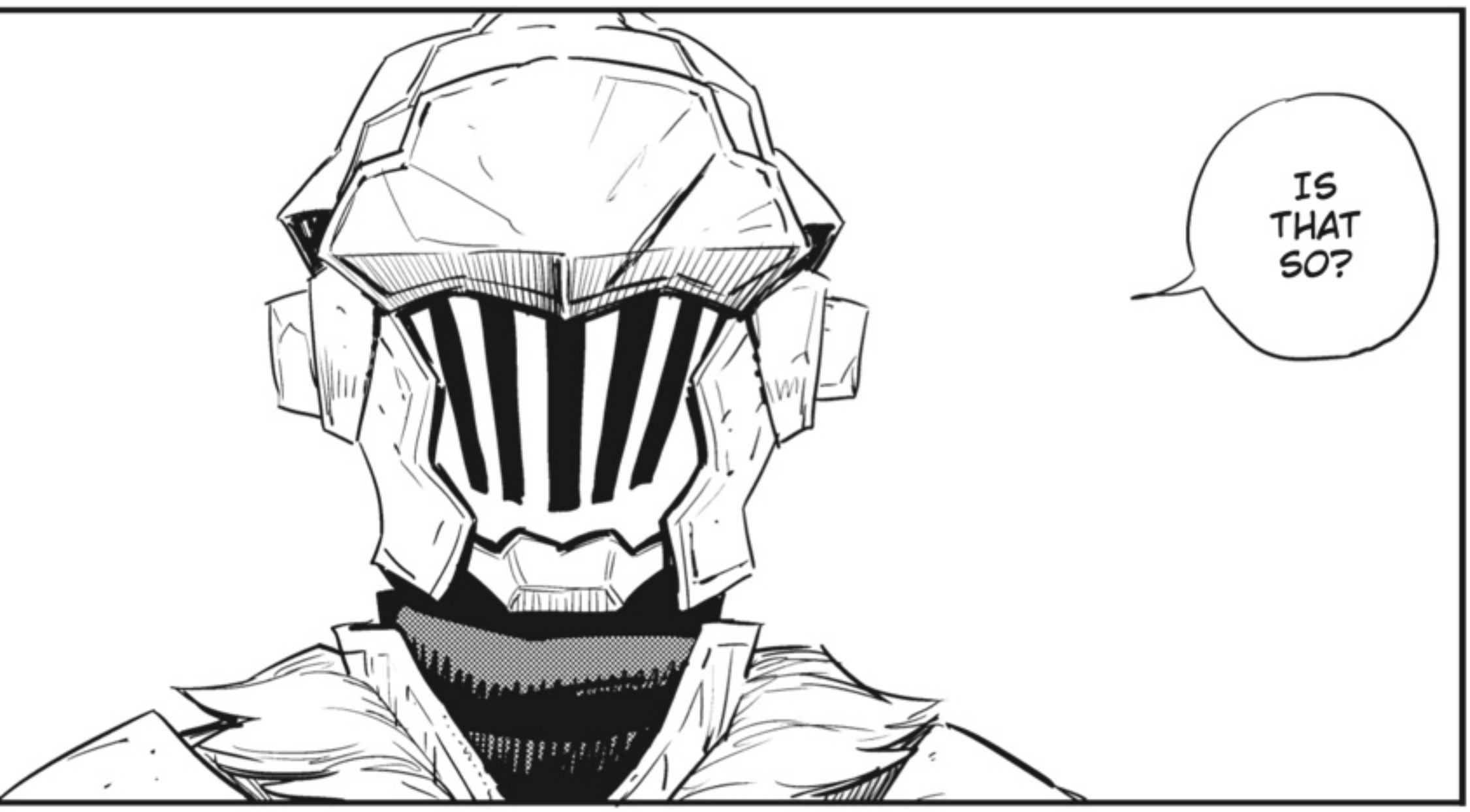
HA! SORRY 'BOUT THAT!
BUT WHEN YEH HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY, SAY IT!

.....
A LITTLE ...

I DON'T KNOW, I THINK THAT WEIRDO MIGHT BE AN EXCEPTION.

"IS THAT SO?" "THAT'S RIGHT." "GOBLINS!" THAT'S HIS ENTIRE VOCABULARY!

LEARN FROM BEARD-CUTTER, WHY DON'CHA?



O MY FORBEARS WHO SLEEP UNDER LAYERS OF ROCK...

SHALL WE BEGIN, THEN?

SHU (HISS)

...WITH ALL THE TIME THAT HAS PILED UPON YOU, GUIDE THESE OBJECTS.

BORO (DROOP)

ZUGU (SKRCH)

ZUGU

I FIND TRYING TO DECAY OBJECTS WITH WEATHERING TAKES A RATHER INORDINATE AMOUNT OF TIME.

INDEED IT IS.

WOW...

IS THIS THE RUST MIRACLE...?

...BUT AT MOMENTS LIKE THIS, IT IS A TRUE BOON.

RUST REQUIRES SOME PREPARATION, SO IT CANNOT BE USED ON THE BATTLEFIELD...

YES.

BUT DON'T LET DOWN YOUR GUARD. ANYTHING COULD STILL HAPPEN.

ALL VERY MUCH ACCORDING TO PLAN THUS FAR.

...AND ROBBED OUR FOES OF THEIR WEAPONS.

THERE. WE HAVE RESCUED THE PRISONERS...

BUOO (FWOOO)

!!

DON'T TELL ME THEY'VE NOTICED US...!?
NO...
IT'S COMING FROM THE DIRECTION OF THAT COURTYARD WE SAW ON THE WAY IN.
THAT HORN SOUNDS AWFUL...!!

BUT I HEAR A WHOLE LOT OF FOOTSTEPS HEADING THAT WAY...!

ボキボキ
BUOOOOO
ドコ
DOKO (THUMP)
DOKO
DOKO
ドコ
DOKO
ドコ
DOKO
ドコ
DOKO
ドコ

GRAAAH!
GODS ...!

GASHA (CLANK)

DOKUN (BADUM)

HRAAAAH!!

ドガッ ドガッ
YAAAH!
ドガッ
YAAAH!
THE GOBLIN PALADIN ...!

IT'S HIM...!!

...WE'VE MADE A MISTAKE.

HOW SO?

THAT'S THEIR BOSS, RIGHT? I COULD PICK HIM OFF FROM HERE...

THAT, WE CANNOT DO.

WHO CAN SAY HOW THE LEADERLESS GOBLINS WOULD REACT?

AND I BELIEVE THAT IS NOT EVEN OUR ONLY CONCERN.

TRUE.

A THRONE.

A KNIGHT...

I SEE AN ARMY. A BAND.

THE GOBLIN PALADIN IS BEING ANNOINTED AS THE RULER OF THIS FORTRESS.

THIS IS A GOBLIN CEREMONY.

!

AND A CEREMONY ...

...NEEDS A PRIEST...!

CORRECT.

BUT...

THEIR PRIEST IS IN PIECES IN THE DUNGEON RIGHT NOW.

DOKUN (BADUM)

IT HURTS ...

HRGH...

GO

GO

GO

GO

GO (RMBL)

HRR...

URGH...

WH-WHAT'S THE MATTER ...?

DOKUN

DOKUN

DOKUN (BADUM)

GH...

HFF...

HRGH...

GW...

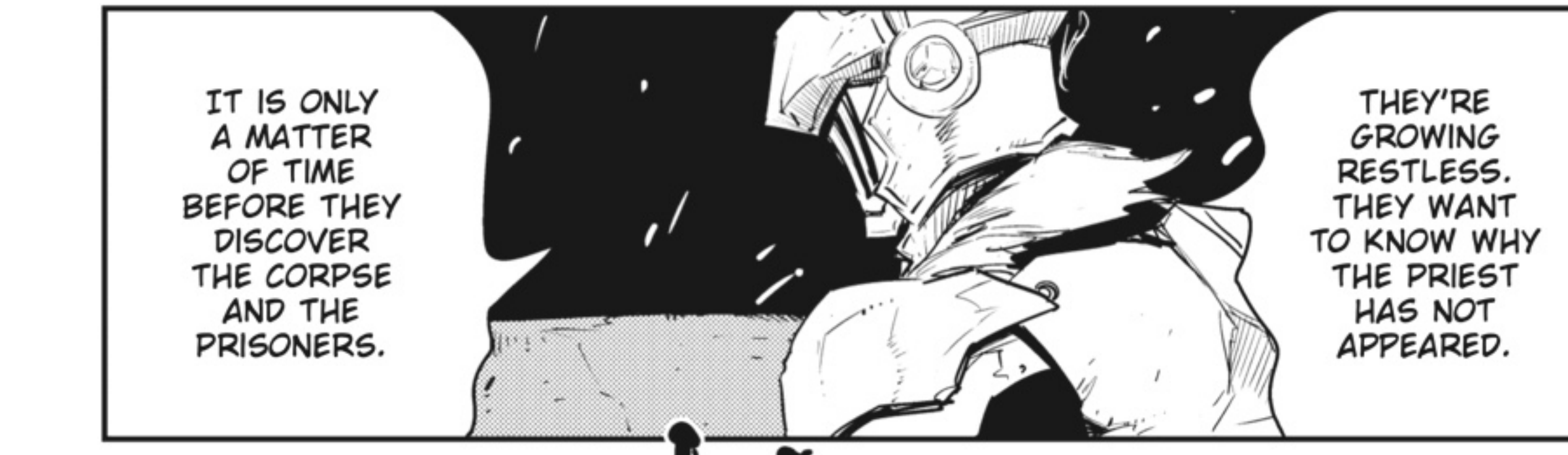
GHH ...!

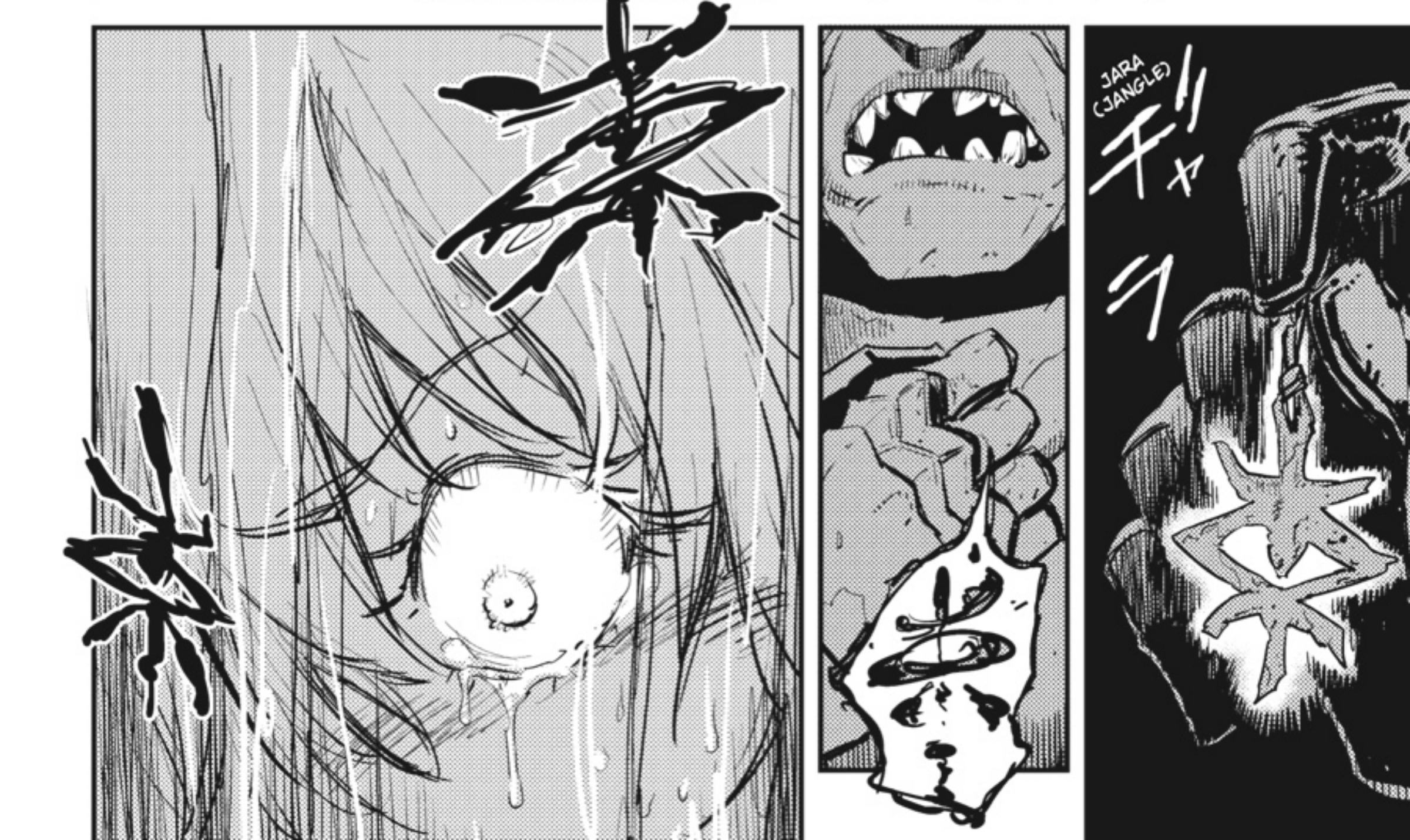
THAT BRAND— IT'S A CURSE OF THE DARK GODS...!

THERE ISN'T TIME ENOUGH TO DISPEL IT...!

OH NO —!

O EARTH MOTHER, ABOUNDING IN MERCY, LAY YOUR REVERED HAND UPON THIS CHILD'S WOUNDS!


IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THEY DISCOVER THE CORPSE AND THE PRISONERS.
THEY'RE GROWING RESTLESS. THEY WANT TO KNOW WHY THE PRIEST HAS NOT APPEARED.


JARA (JANGLE)

ドガ
ドガ
ドガ
ドガ

CHAPTER 50

ZA (FSK)

ZA

BA (FWAH)

BA

BA

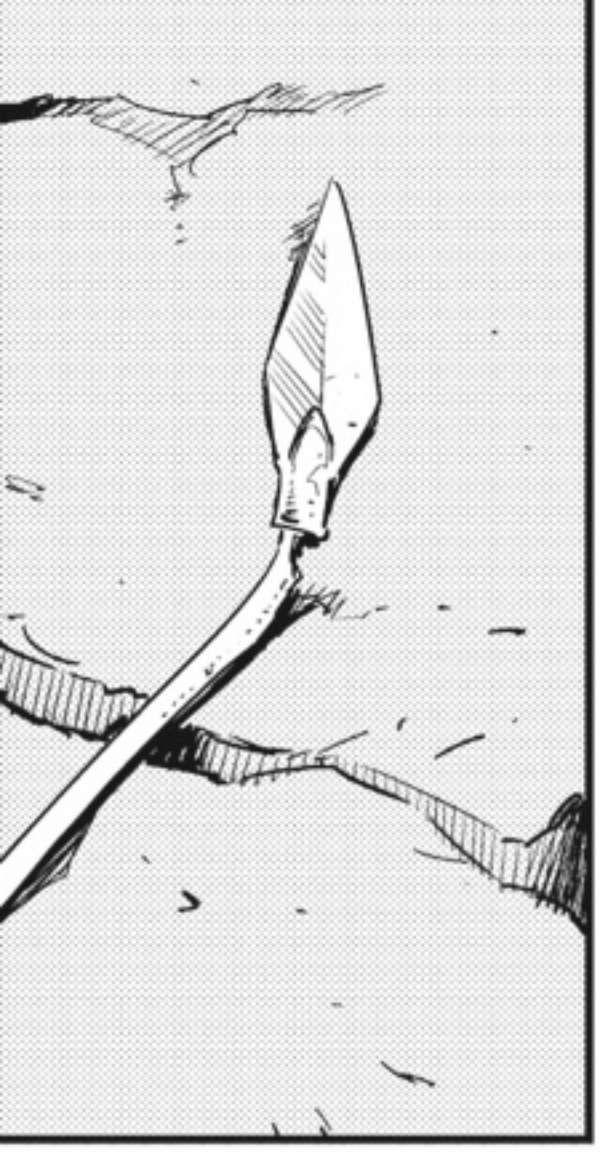
EEK!

GET DOWN!

BASU (THUMP)

KAN (TONK)

KAKAN



GA
(CLANG)

N-NO, I'M FINE.
THANK YOU.
ARE YOU HURT?

WHAT ABOUT THE REST OF YOU?
MORE IN DANGER OF GETTIN' CRUSHED THAN SHOT, ACTUALLY.
STILL ALIVE, SOME-HOW!

LOOSELY ATTACHED ARROWHEADS WILL DO HARDLY ANY DAMAGE AT THIS RANGE.

THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT THEY COPIED.

GOODNESS, THIS HAS TURNED INTO QUITE THE AFFAIR.

WE MAY COUNT OURSELVES LUCKY THAT THEIR SHARPSHOOTERS APPEAR TO BE RATHER DULL.

I'LL BE THE DIVERSION.

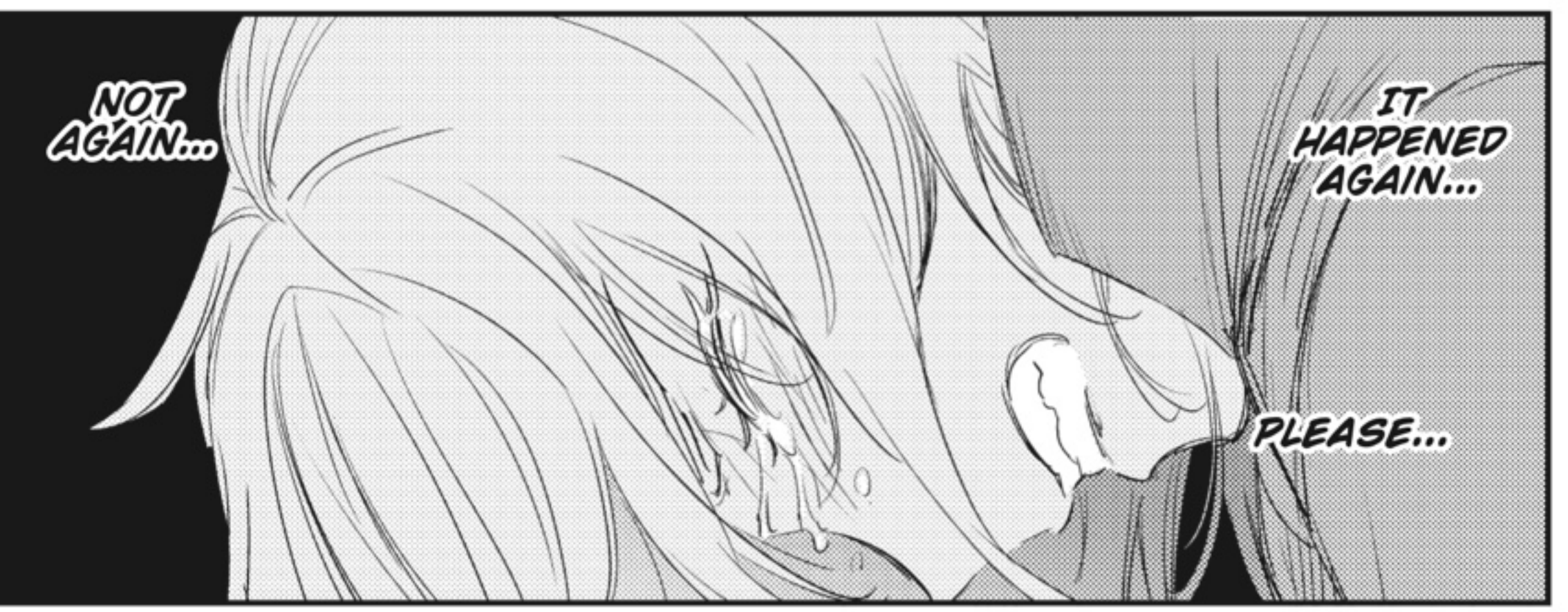
WE'LL SPLIT INTO TWO GROUPS.

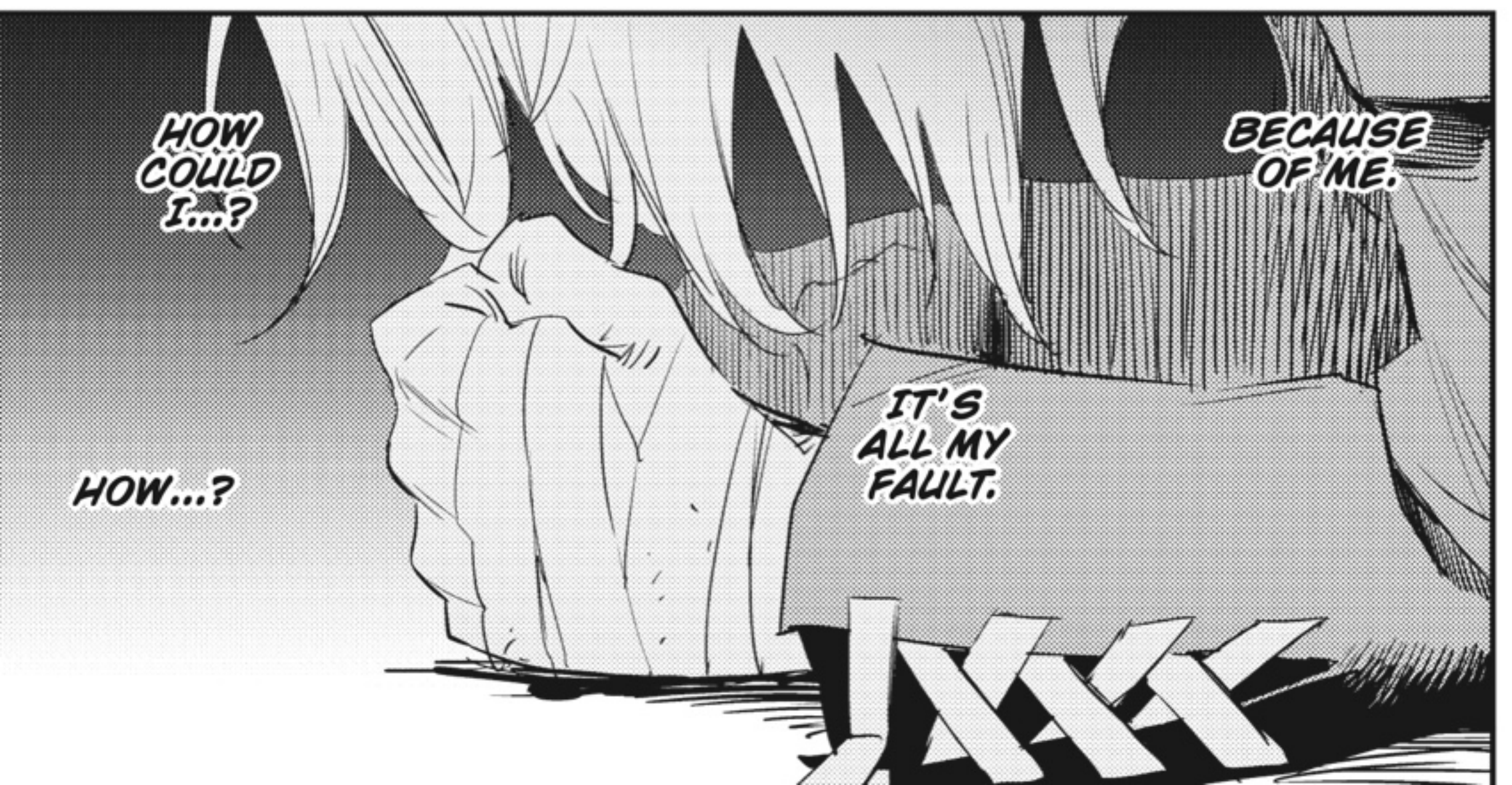
THREE MEMBERS IN EACH.

GOOD. LET'S GO.

WE'RE ON IT!

THEN WE SHALL EVACUATE THE PRISONERS FROM THE DUNGEONS.


NOT AGAIN...
IT HAPPENED AGAIN...
PLEASE...


HOW COULD I...?
BECAUSE OF ME.
IT'S ALL MY FAULT.
HOW...?

...AND I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING.

...LAUGHING ALL THE WHILE...

WHY?

THEY HAD THEIR WAY WITH ME...

I WAS POWERLESS...

GIVE ME BACK...

I HAVE TO TAKE BACK...

...MY SWORD!

...MY SWORD!

PATHETIC...

FATHER...

MOTHER...

I...

I CAN'T STAND ANY MORE!

PLEASE...

GAN
(CLANG)
IS THAT SO?
UNDERSTOOD.
WHA ...?

I AM GOING TO KILL ALL THE GOBLINS.
I DON'T MEAN JUST ONE OR TWO OF THEM.
I DON'T MEAN JUST ONE NEST.
NOT EVEN JUST THIS ENTIRE FORTRESS.
I WILL RETRIEVE YOUR SWORD.
AND I WILL KILL THE GOBLIN PALADIN.
ALONG WITH THE OTHER GOBLINS.

YES, SIR.

LET'S GET MOVING. STAY LOW.

WE'RE GOING OUT ON THE RAMPARTS.

KEEP US SAFE.

YOU'RE OUR REAR GUARD.

...ALL RIGHT.

.....

I THINK SO.

CAN YOU RUN?

YOU NEVER TURN ANYONE DOWN, DO YOU, GOBLIN SLAYER? YOU JUST SAY "IS THAT SO?" AND GET ON WITH BUSINESS.

IS THAT SO?

GOSH...

YOU REALLY ARE HOPELESS.

...WELL, I CAN HARDLY SAY THAT NOW.

SEE?

.....IS THAT SO?

IT'LL BE OKAY.

TRUST ME... HE'S NOT GOING TO LOSE THIS FIGHT.

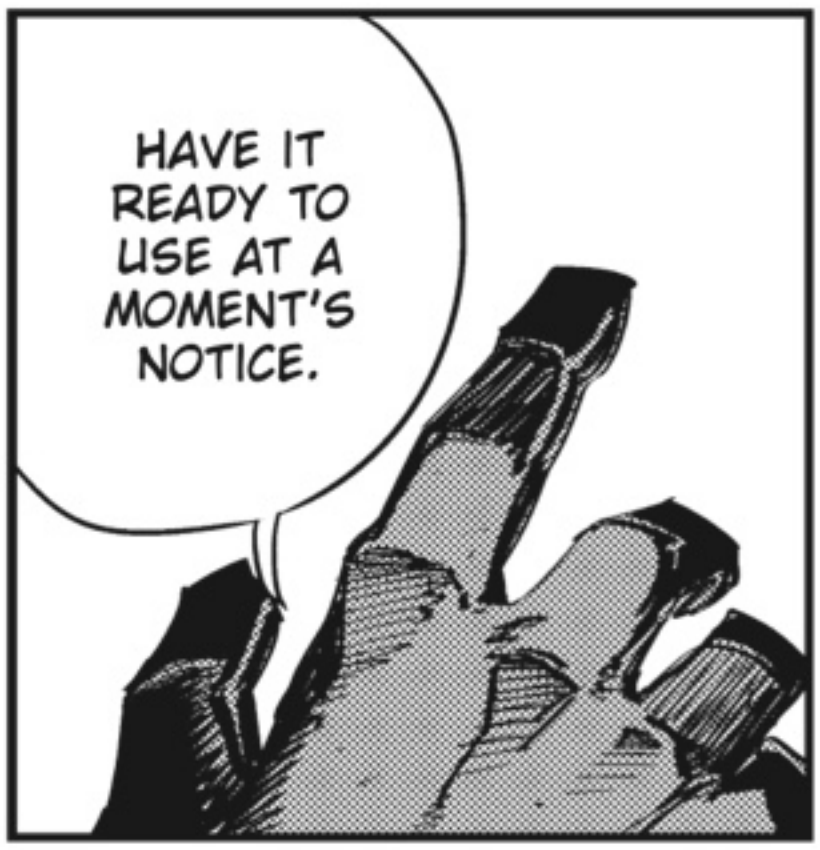
KA (FLASH)

HOLY LIGHT!

CHECK YOUR EQUIPMENT NOW.

GOOD.

THEIR FORCES WILL BE HERE SHORTLY.


HAVE IT READY TO USE AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE.

OH... YES, SIR.
YOU HAVE YOUR ADVENTURER'S TOOLKIT?

IT FEELS GOOD TO BE THE ONE WITH THE "HOSTAGE" FOR ONCE.

...WITH THEIR SACRIFICE IN OUR HANDS, THEY CAN'T AFFORD TO ACT TOO AGGRESSIVELY.

SAVE IT.
SHOULD I CAST PROTEC-TION...?

!
YES, SIR!
I'LL LET YOU DETERMINE WHEN BEST TO USE IT.

I SEEM...
...TO BE GETTING INTO MORE SITUATIONS I CAN'T HANDLE ALONE.

GOBLIN SLAYER, LOOK OUT!
!

HERE THEY COME!

SIX...

NO, SEVEN!

DO (THOCK)

ZAKU (SHNK)

BAM CRASH
BO GLAND

GA (SMACK)
HUH !?
WHEN DID IT —!?
GA
TAKE THIS!

THERE'S MORE BEHIND US!

...I'M NOT SURE!

HOW MANY?

HFF...

HFF...

...A LOT!!

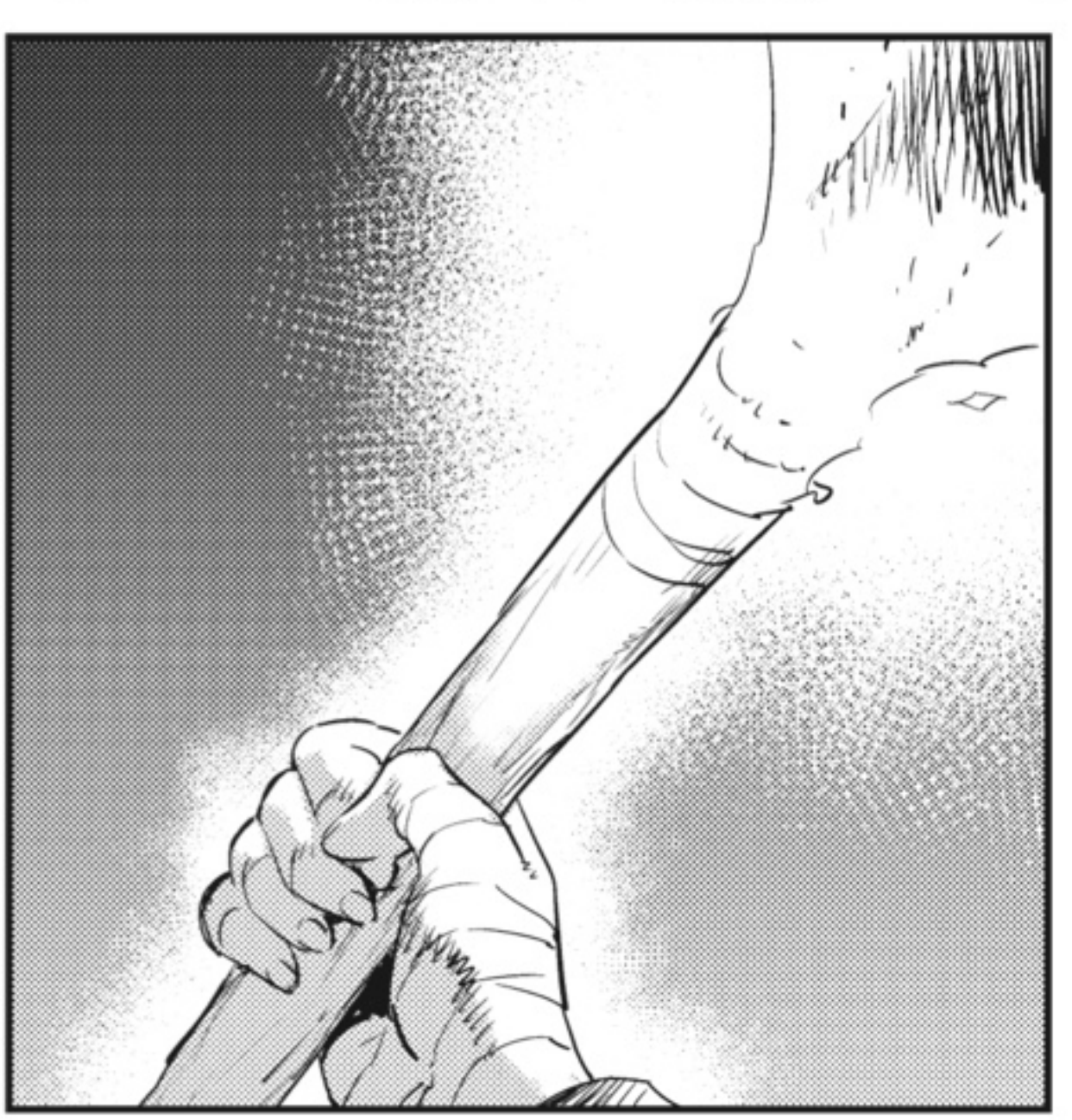
BUT...

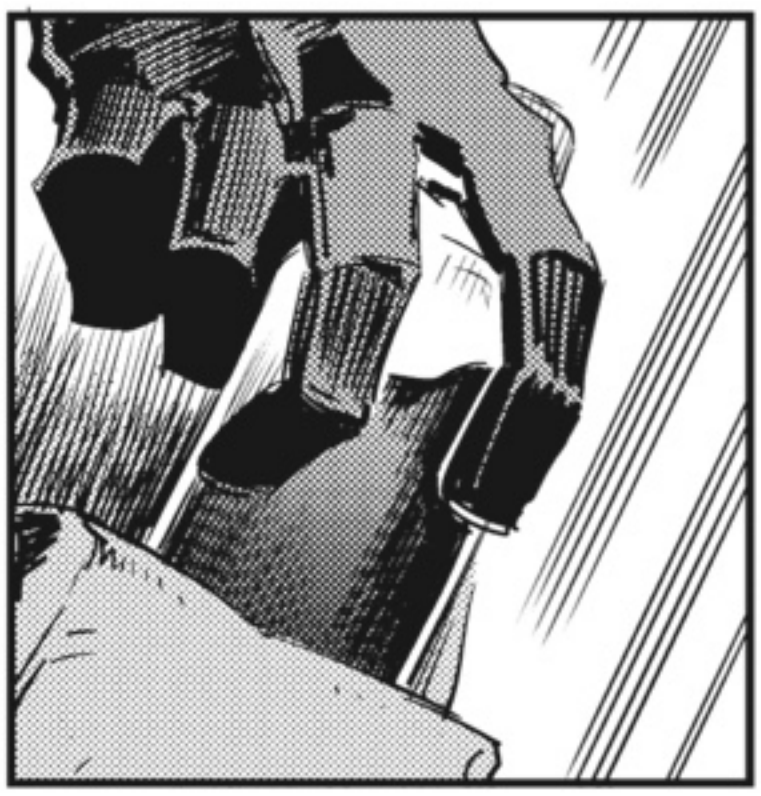
GO (WHOOSH)

HFF...
HFF...
HFF...
HFF...
WATCH YOUR FEET!!

...!!
BA
(LEAP)

GYU
(GRIP)

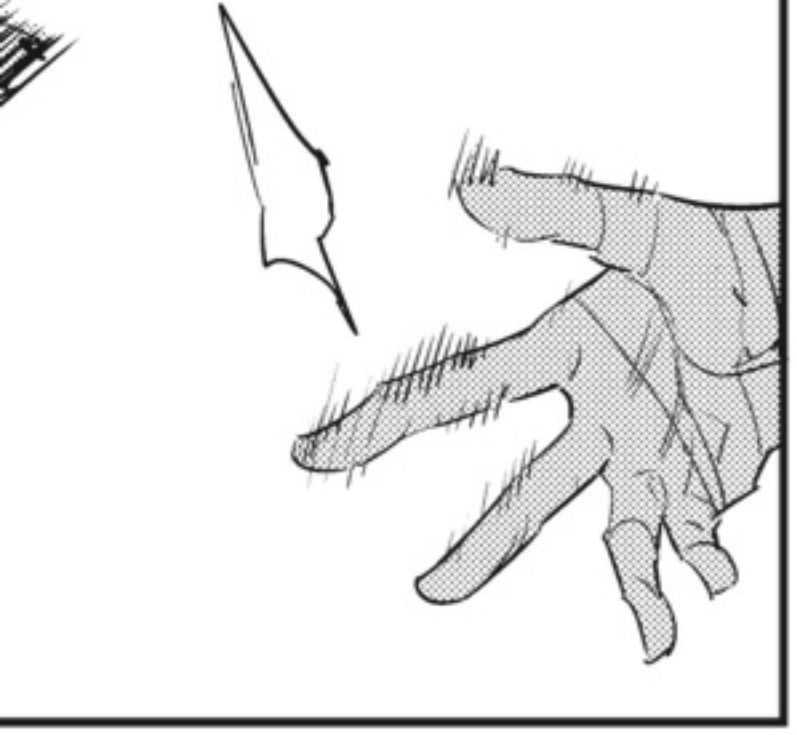




GO
(WHAM)

BI
(TOSS)

PARIIN
(SHIING)



...!!

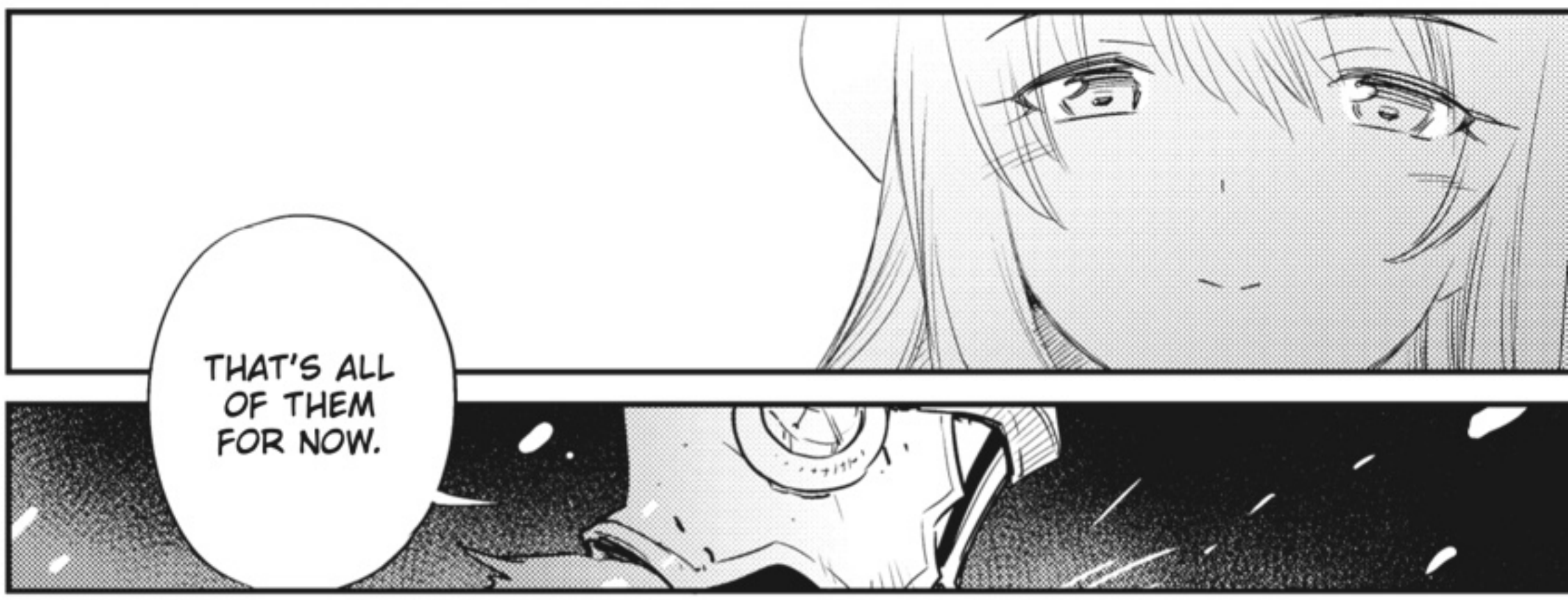
!
FLING YOUR TORCH AT THEM!

BOU
(FWOOSH)

...!!
GIRIN
(SHING)

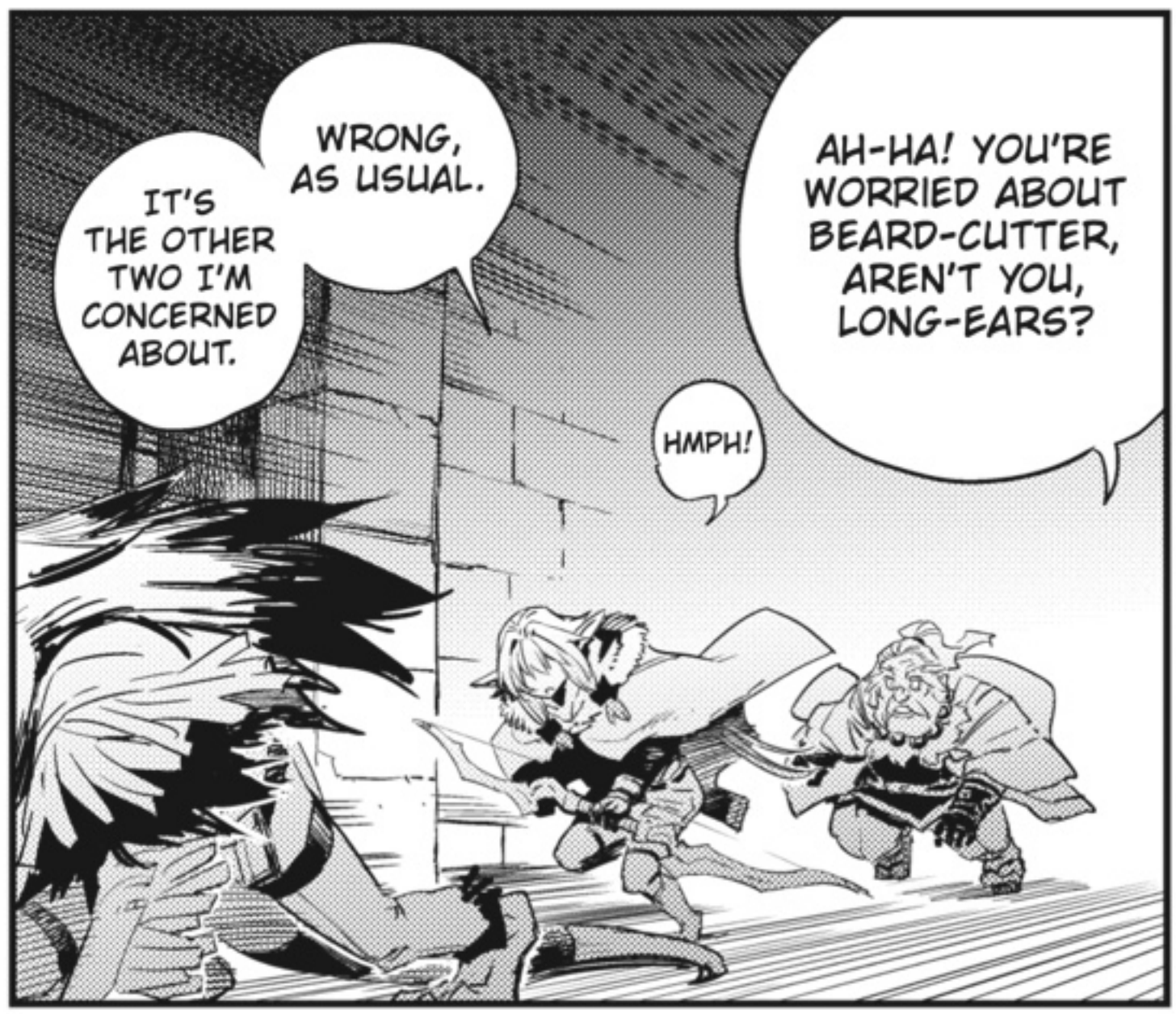
ZU (SHCK)

PA (SHRRK)


THAT'S ALL OF THEM FOR NOW.

WELL DONE.

CHAPTER 51


IT'S THE OTHER TWO I'M CONCERNED ABOUT.
WRONG, AS USUAL.
AH-HA! YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT BEARD-CUTTER, AREN'T YOU, LONG-EARS?
HMPH!

I WONDER HOW THINGS ARE GOING UP TOP.

SHUT UP! I'M NOT WORRIED ABOUT THAT!
AWFULLY CHILDISH OF YA.
SO THINKIN' ABOUT THE NEW GIRL STEALING HIM AWAY HAS YOU TREMBLIN' IN YER BOOTS!

SURE Y'CAN, LASS.
EH?
THEY'RE BOTH MY FRIENDS.
CAN'T I WORRY ABOUT THEM?

GRRRR...

I CAN'T TELL IF HE'S PRAISING ME OR MAKING FUN OF ME...

YER AN ELF!

GOTTA CHERISH FRIENDSHIP WHILE IT LASTS.

NOT THAT I'M DOUBTING YOU, BUT THE SAME IDEA HAS FAILED ONCE ALREADY...

GACHA (KRACHAK)

ARE YOU SURE THIS IS GONNA WORK?

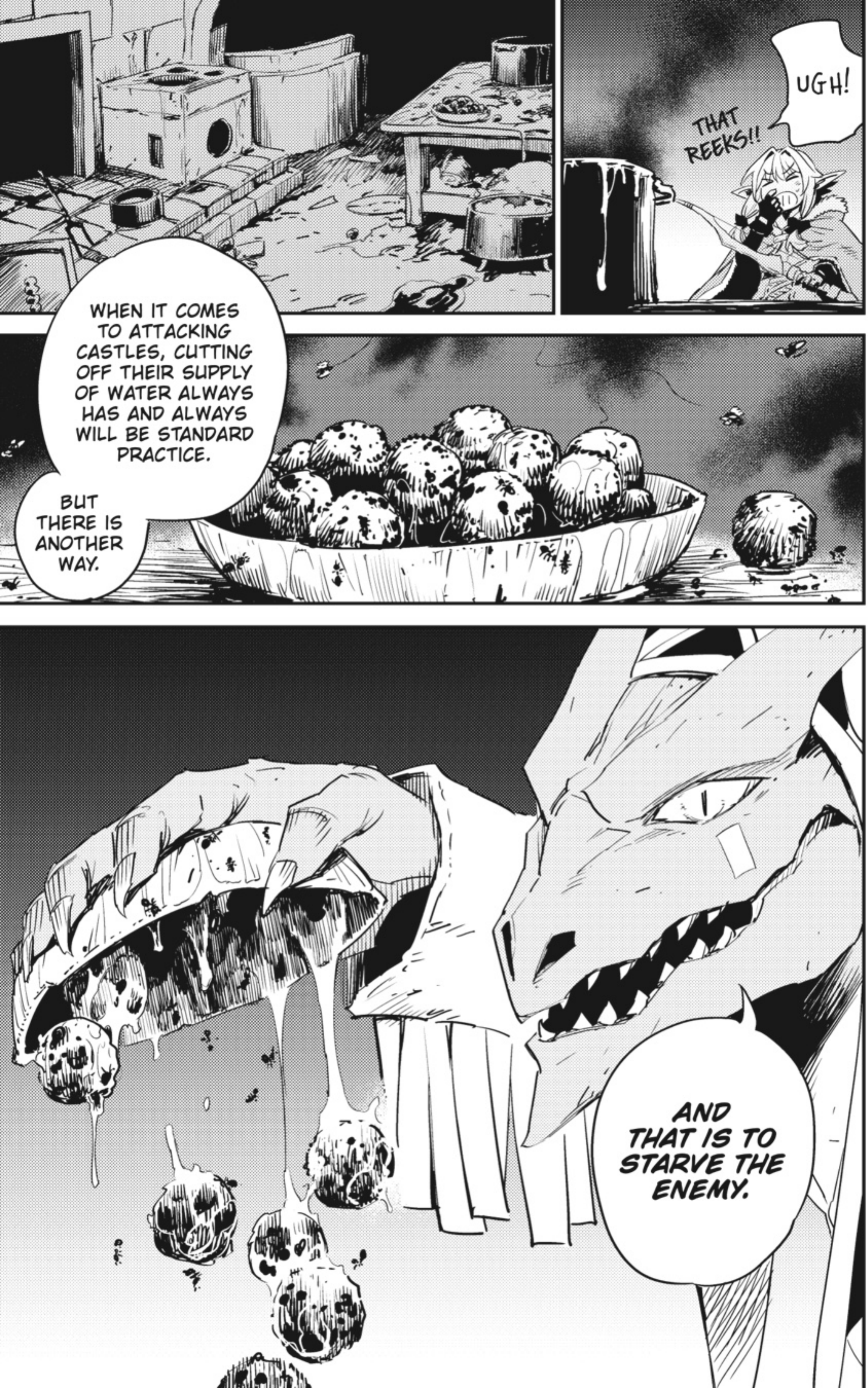
HEY...

ONE FAILURE DOES NOT MEAN THE PLAN ITSELF WAS POOR.

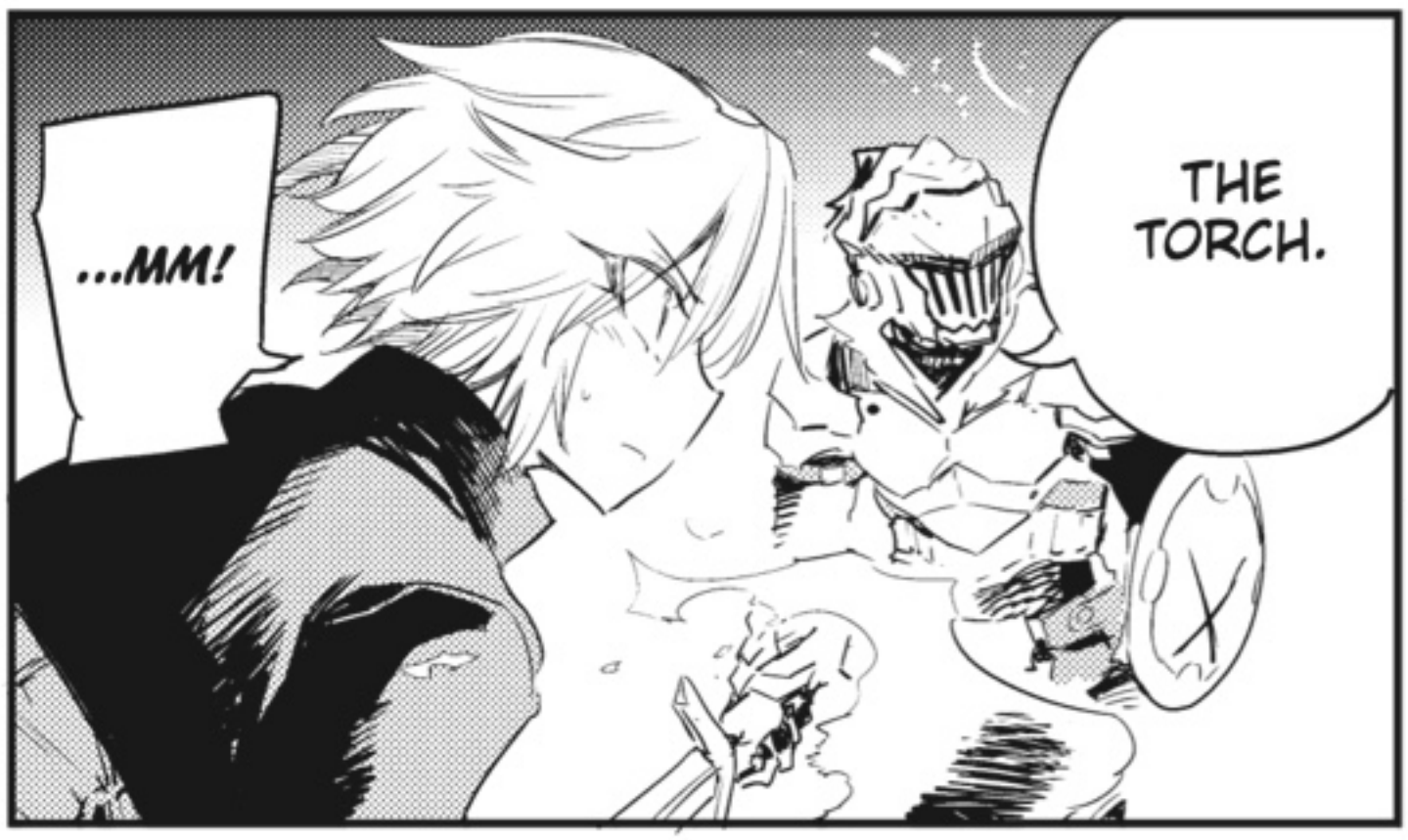
GOTTA ADMIT, I'VE BEEN WORRIED ABOUT THE SAME THING.

SHURU (FSSH)

しゅる


UGH!
THAT REEKS!!
WHEN IT COMES TO ATTACKING CASTLES, CUTTING OFF THEIR SUPPLY OF WATER ALWAYS HAS AND ALWAYS WILL BE STANDARD PRACTICE.
BUT THERE IS ANOTHER WAY.
AND THAT IS TO STARVE THE ENEMY.

DOKA (SLAM)


...MM!
THE TORCH.

BASHA (SPLASH)

GOBLIN SLAYER!

THAT MAKES TWENTY-NINE.

BOLI (FWOOMD)

LOOK, FIRE!

GOOO (FWOOSH)

!!

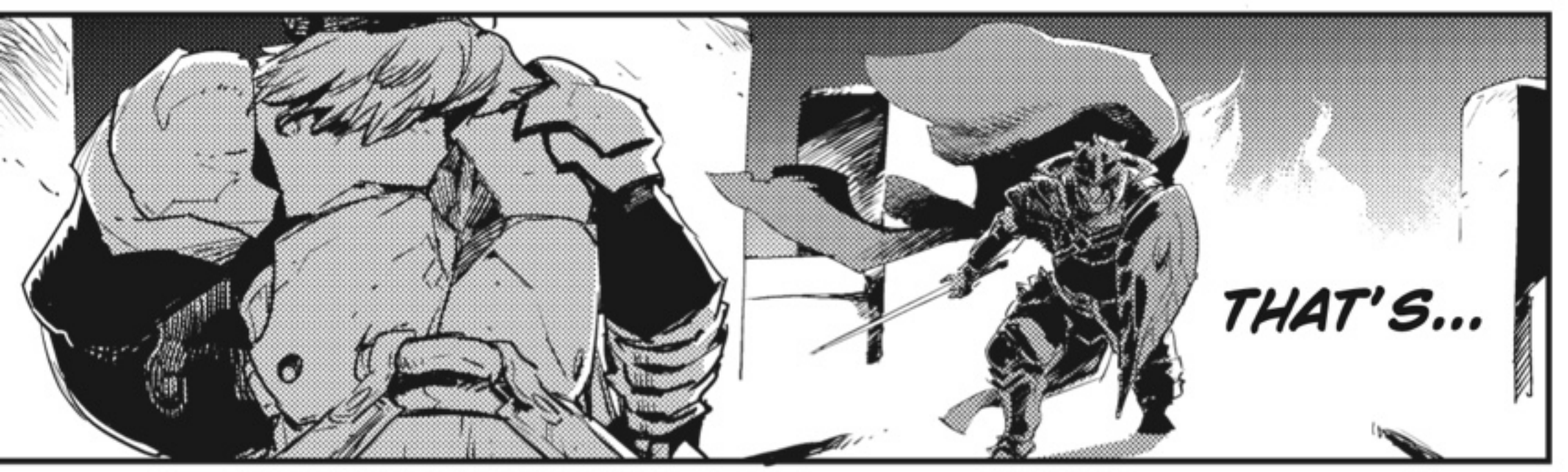
WE'RE FALLING BACK. GET READY TO—

GOOD.

THEN IT'S TIME.

GOBLIN SLAYER! SIR!!
BO (WHOOSH)

KIN (SHING)


THAT'S...

...MY...
MY SWORD...
THE ONE HE...

!!

...STOLE FROM ME...

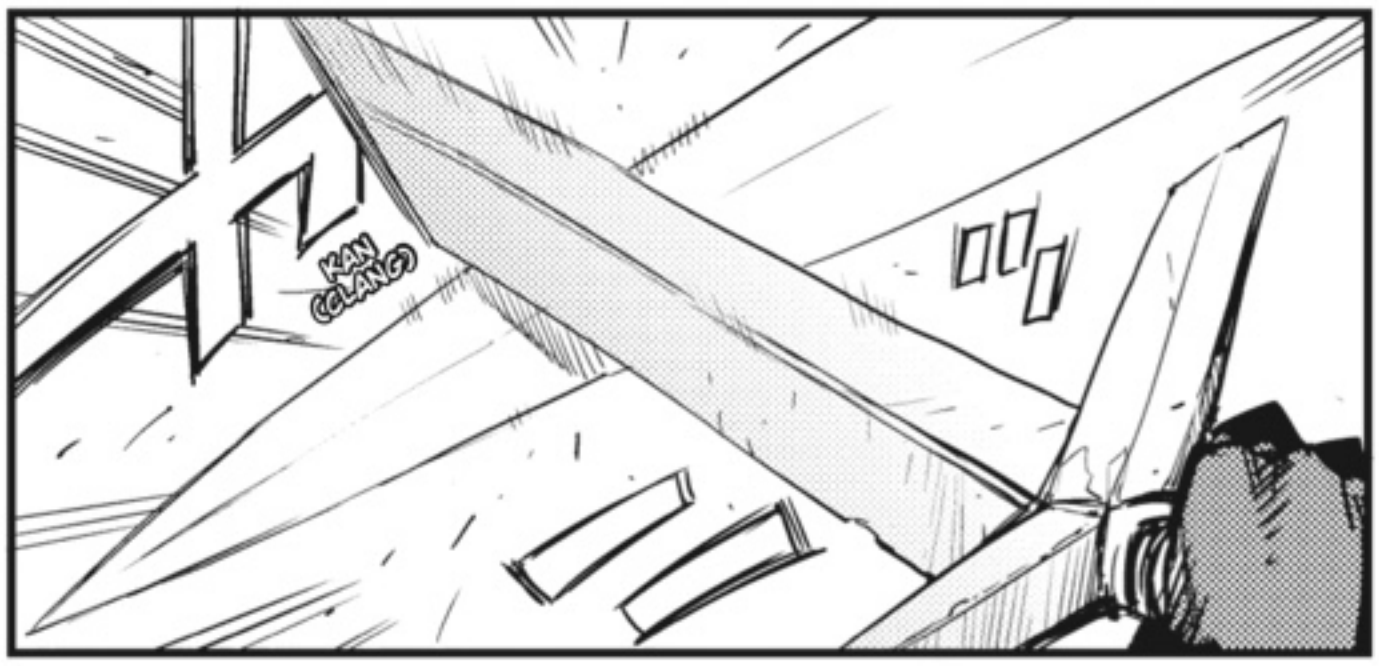
RIGHT!

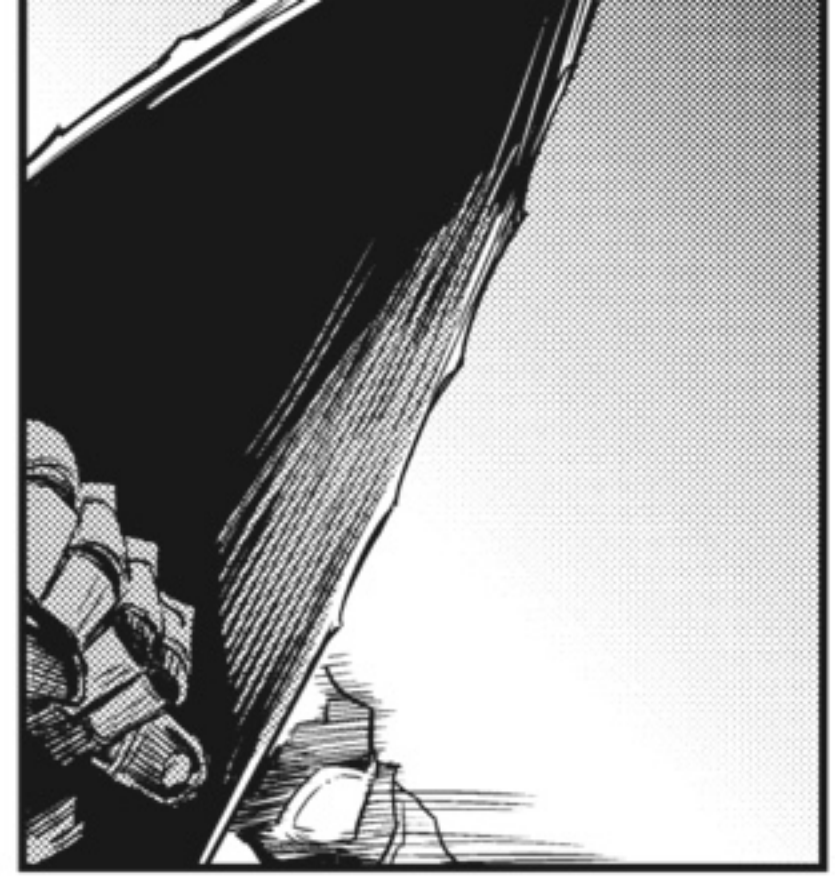
!

OKAY.

I SEE. AN ALUMINUM SWORD.

STANDARD ARMOR WILL BE USELESS AGAINST IT.



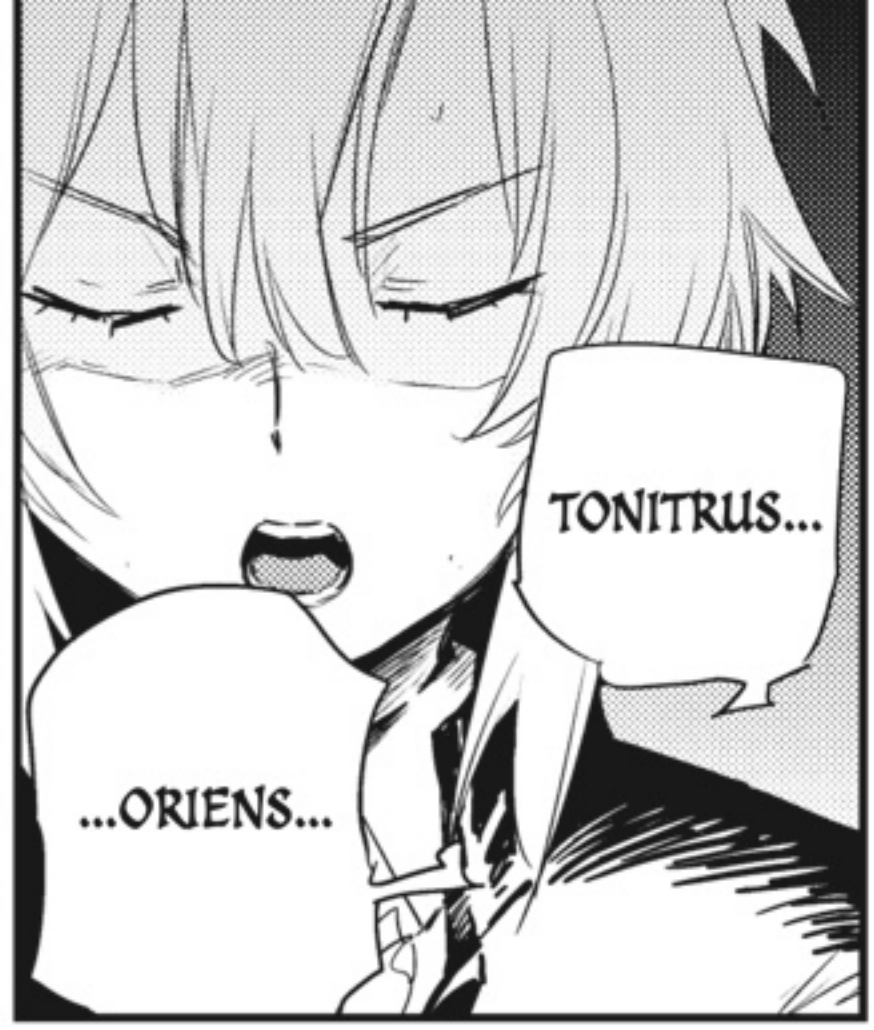


BUN
(SWOOSH)

HYU
(FWOOSH)

GA
(CLANG)

GARI
(SHHK)
JI
(SLASH)



PAKI (KRACK)

...IACTA! RISE AND FALL, THUNDER!

YUBA (CRACK)

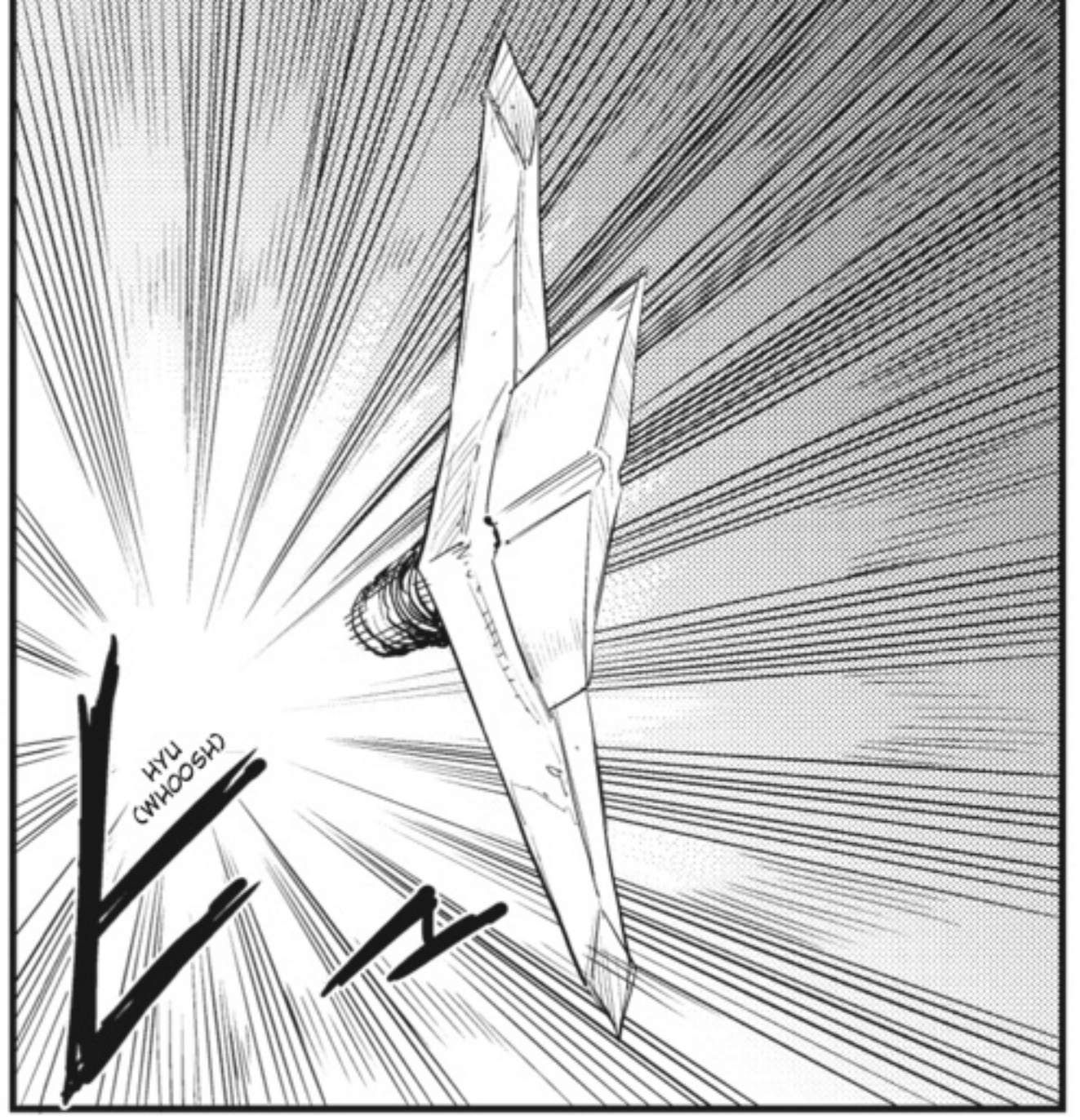
BAU (FWOOSH)

GOBLIN SLAYER!

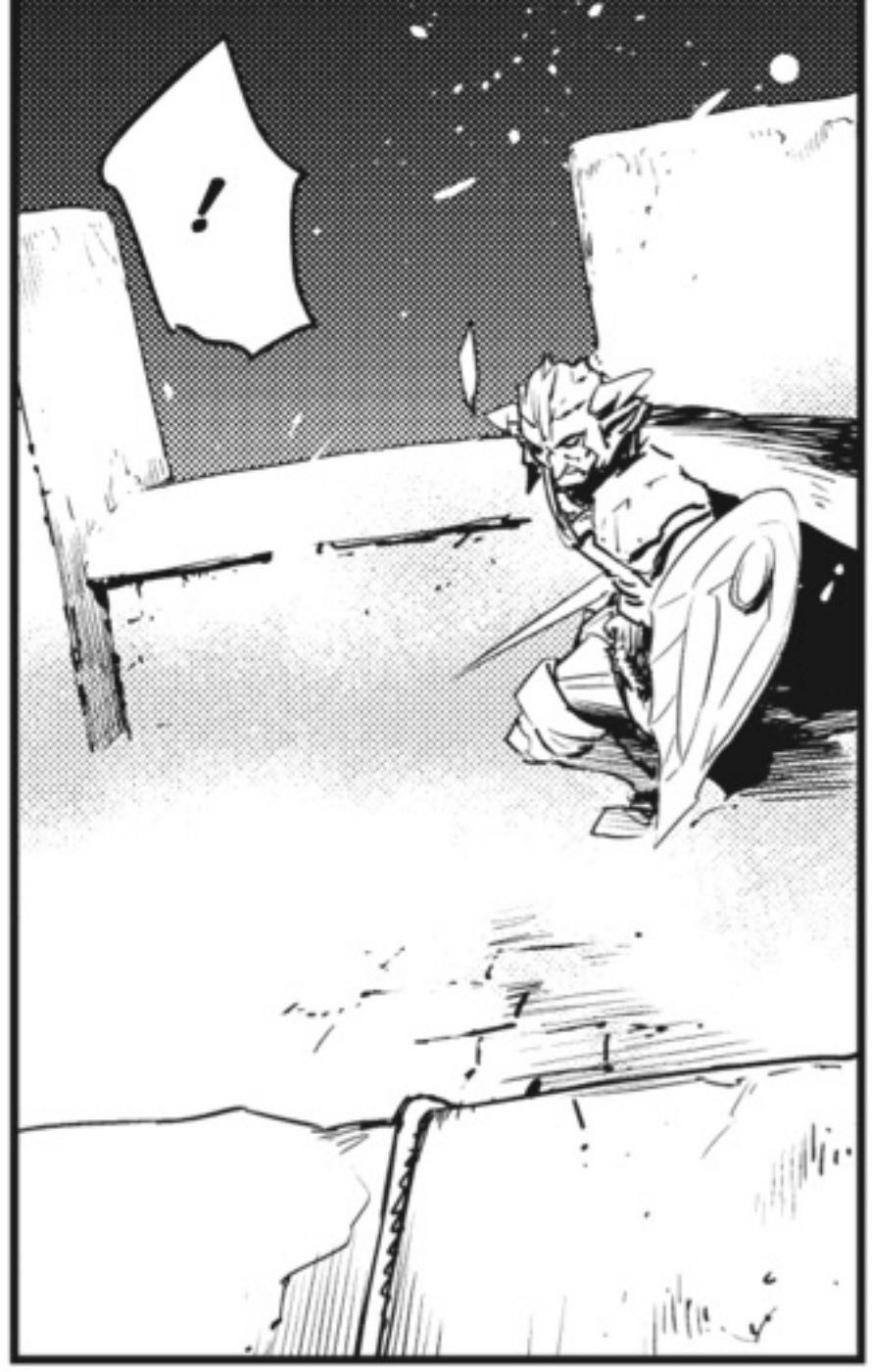
WE'RE SAFE!

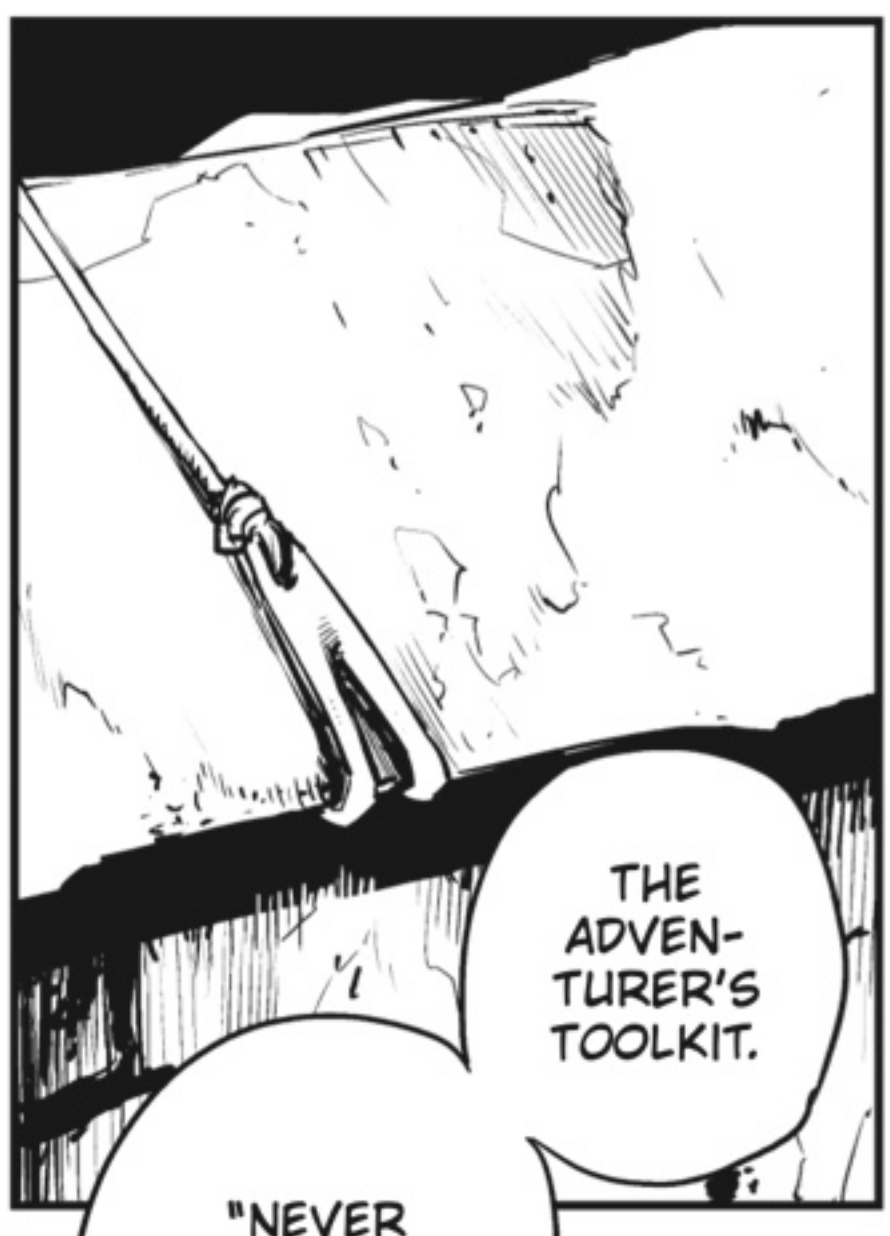
HOW DO YOU LIKE THAT!!?

GAN
(CLANG)


HYU
(WHOOSH)

EEP!?
GRAB ON!
...WHA—!?


!


THE ADVEN-TURER'S TOOLKIT.
"NEVER LEAVE HOME WITHOUT IT," AS THEY SAY.

BA CFWAHD

IS THAT SO?

...THAT'S YOUR CUE TO SAY, "NO, IT'S LIKE YOU WEIGH NOTHING AT ALL!"

I SEE.

YES!

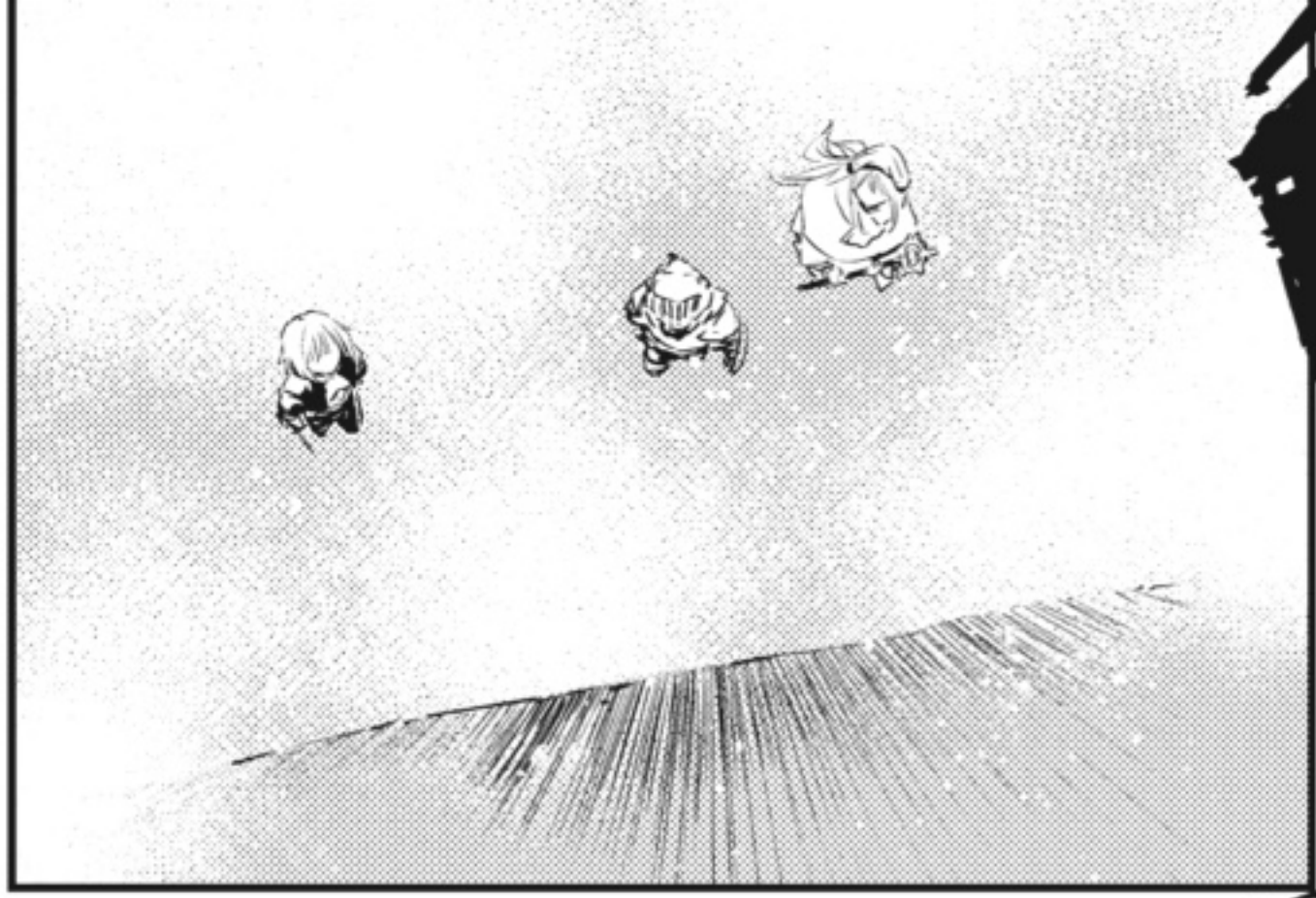
A-AREN'T WE HEAVY FOR YOU...?

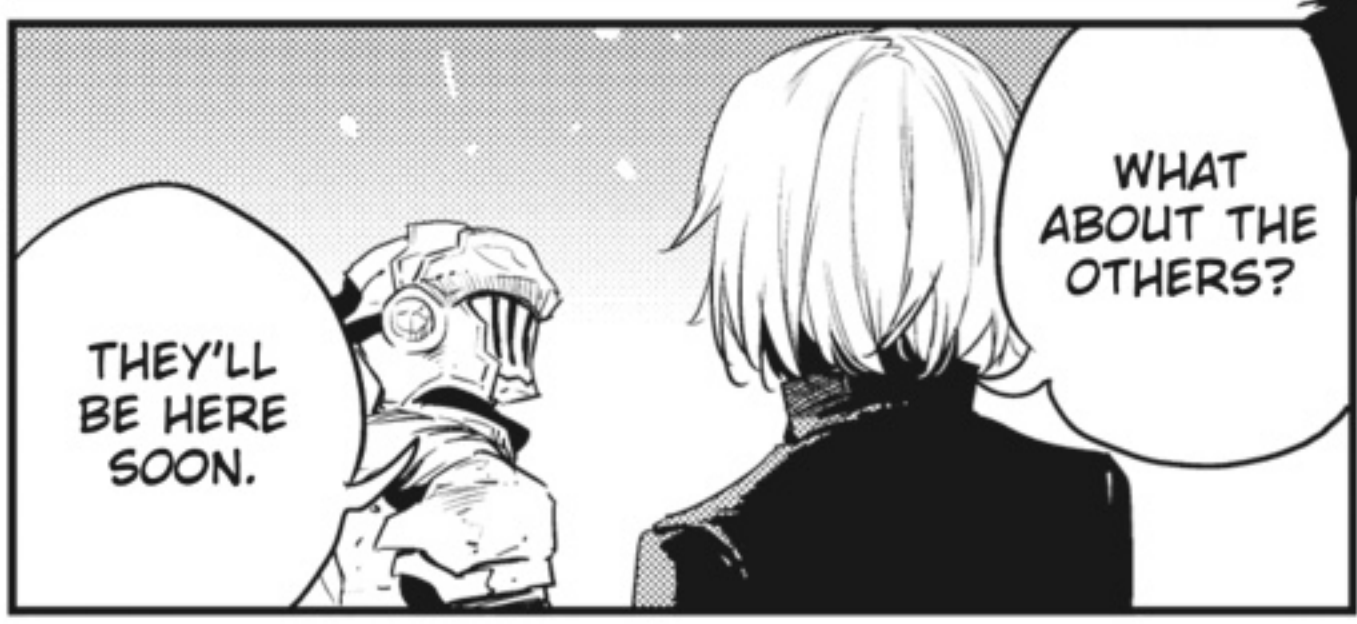
A LITTLE.

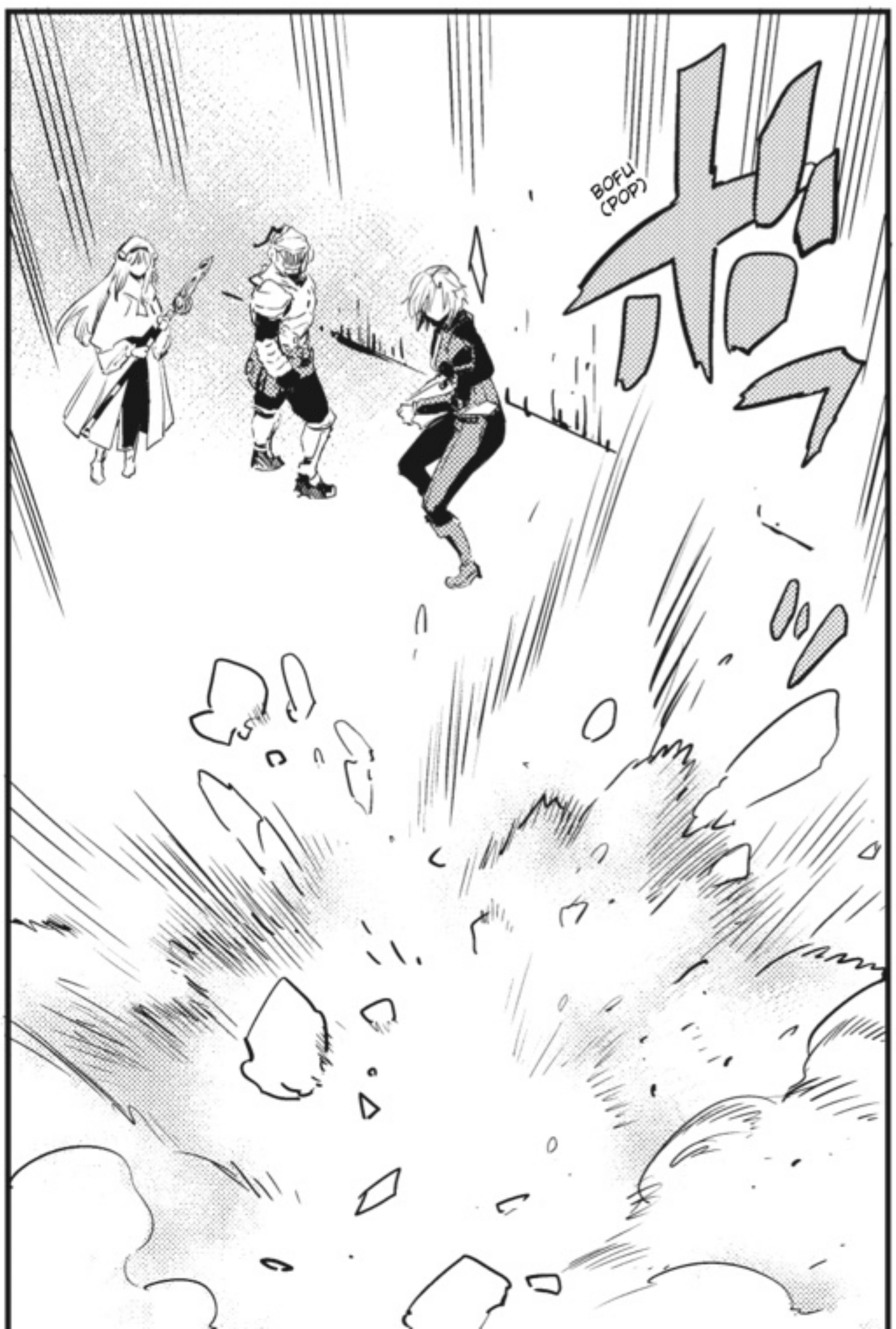
BLIN (SLICE)

I'LL PAY YOU BACK LATER.

BARA (SNAP)




THEY'LL BE HERE SOON.
WHAT ABOUT THE OTHERS?


BOFU (POP)

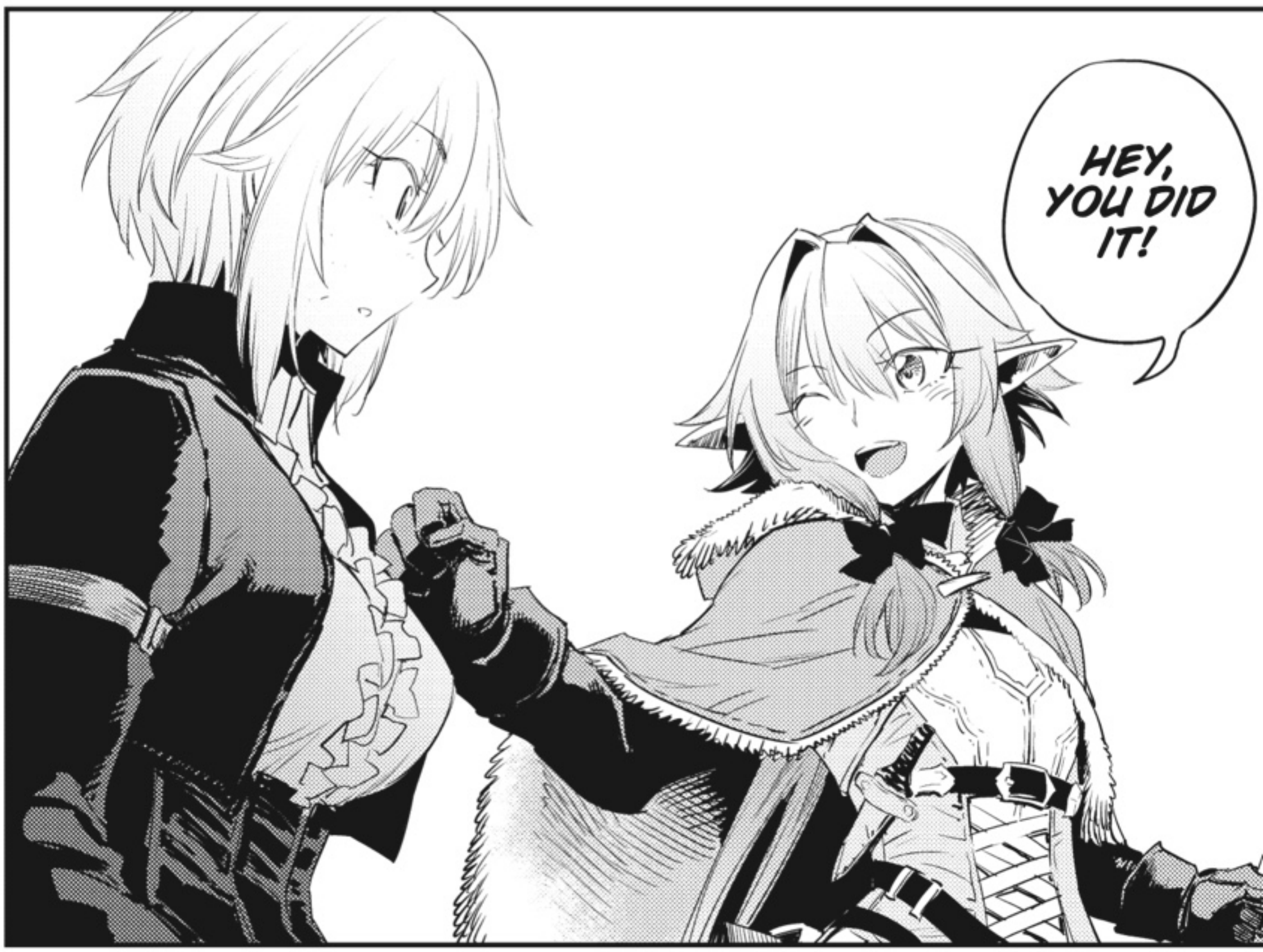
I'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND HOW YOU DWARVES CAN LIVE UNDER-GROUND!

YOU'RE TELLING ME!

PFAH!

IF I NEVER SEE ANOTHER GOBLIN TUNNEL, IT'LL BE TOO SOON!

ARE YOU SURE YOU GUYS AREN'T RELATED TO GOBLINS?


HEY, YOU DID IT!

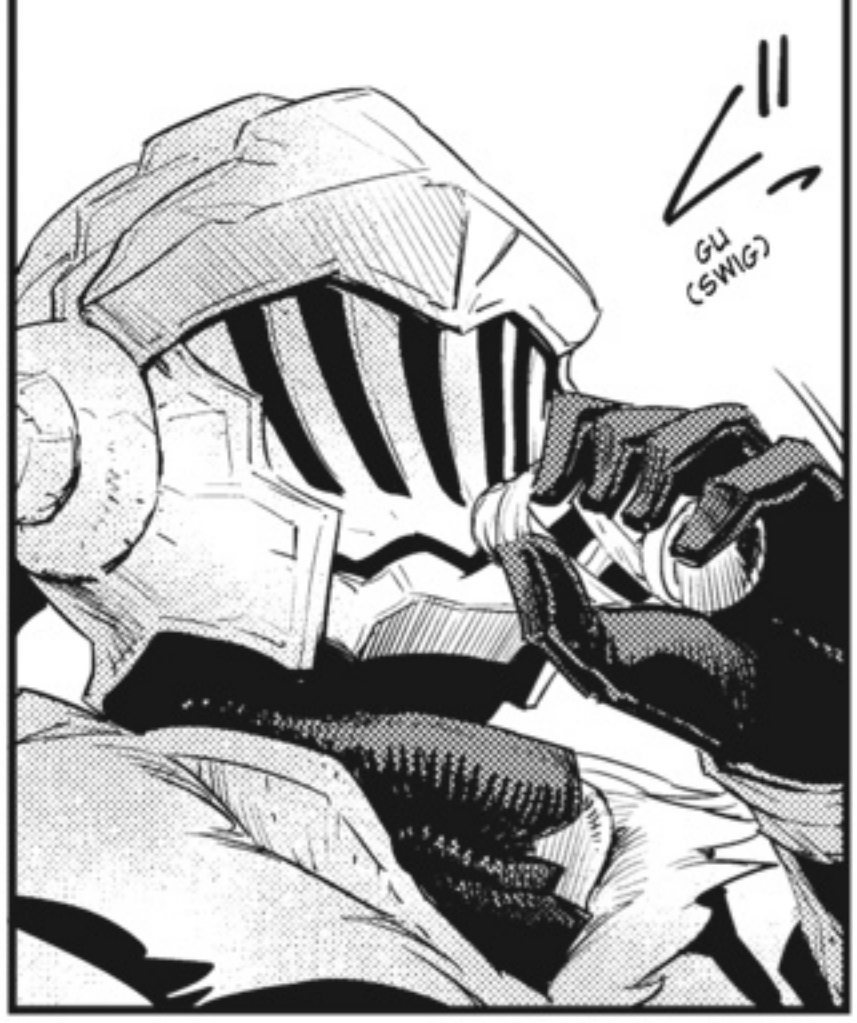
YES...

THANKS TO MASTER SPELL CASTER'S TUNNEL SPELL, ESCAPE WAS A SIMPLE MATTER.

WE HAVE THE CAPTIVES HERE AS WELL.

GUESS THE ONLY THING LEFT IS TO GET THE LITTLE LADY HER SWORD BACK.

YES.

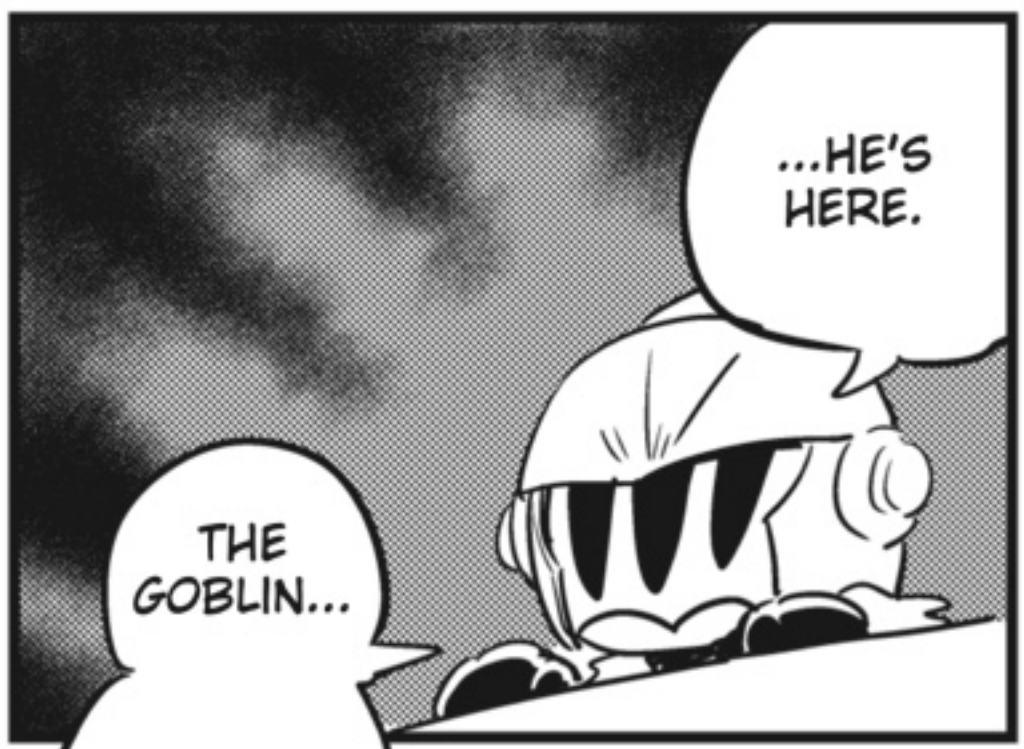

GU
(SWIG)

GOOD LUCK OUT THERE!
A STAMINA POTION, ON THE HOUSE.

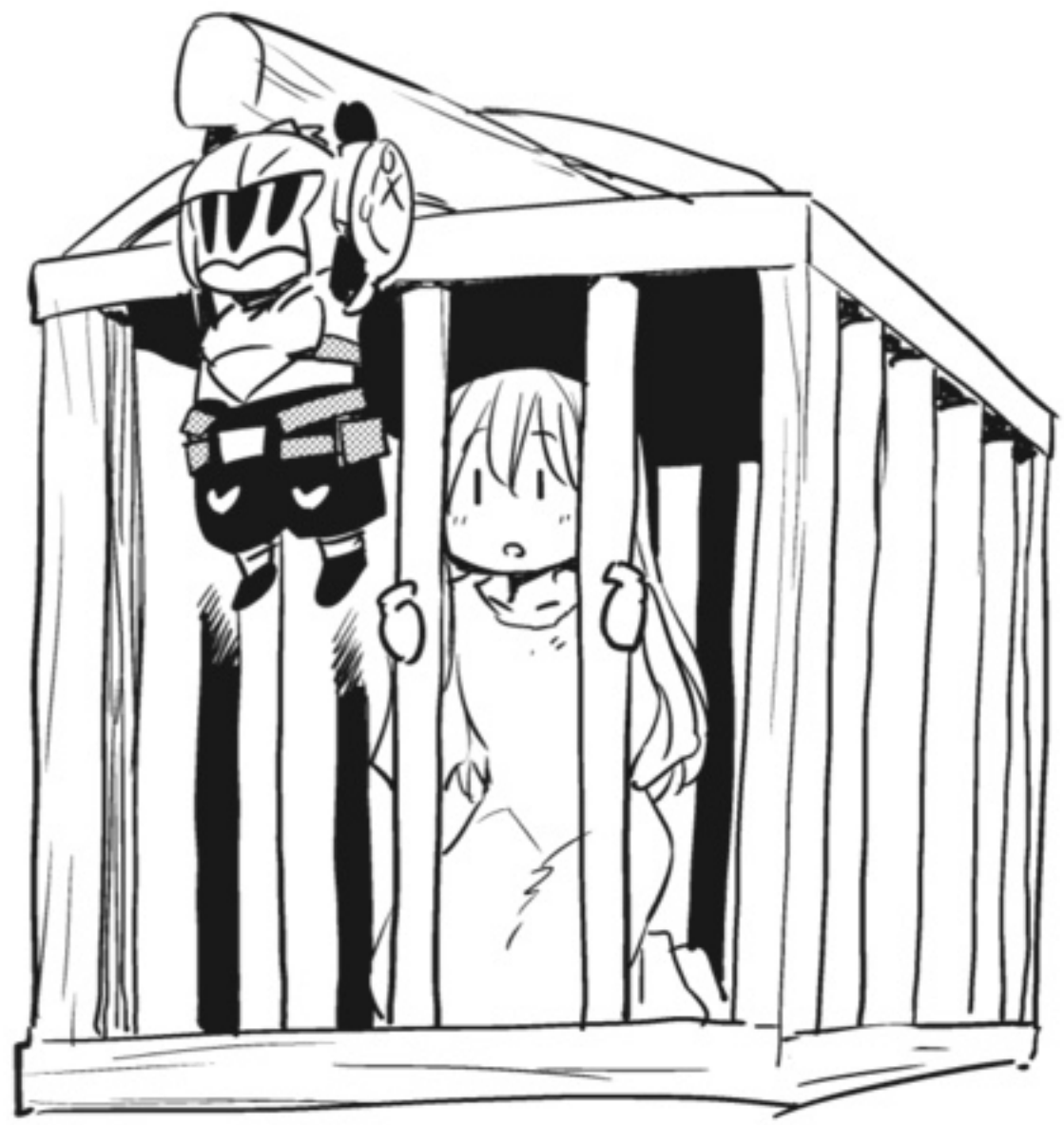
TIME TO KILL ALL THE GOBLINS.

LUNACY!!
GOBLIN SLAYER 10 THE END

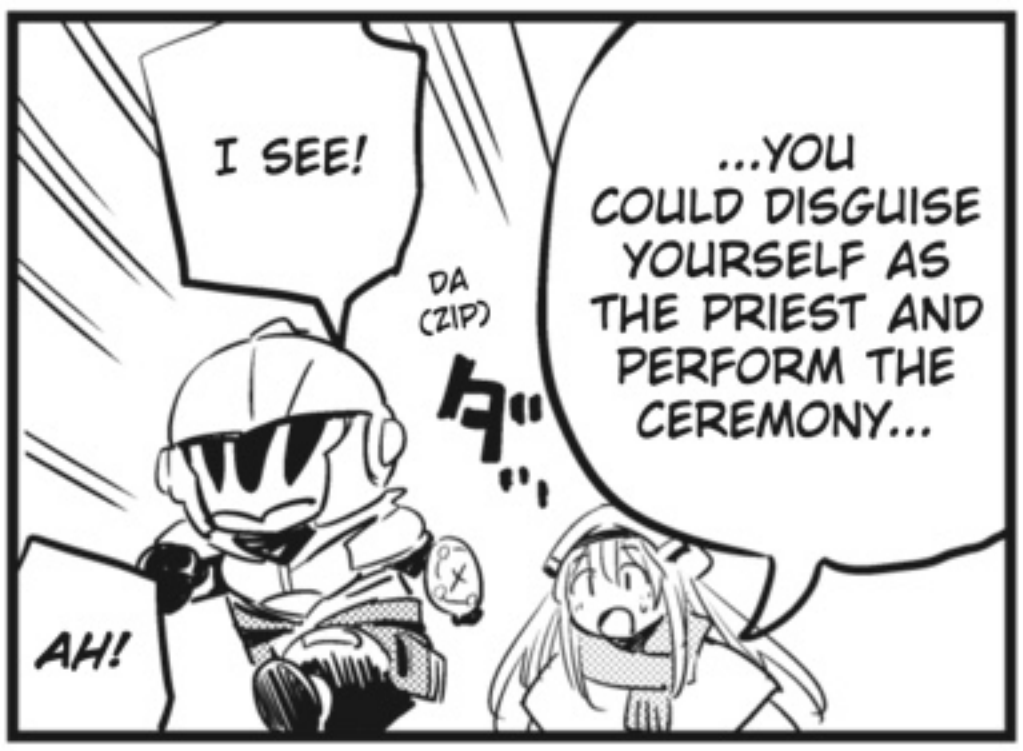
THERE'S NO MISTAKE

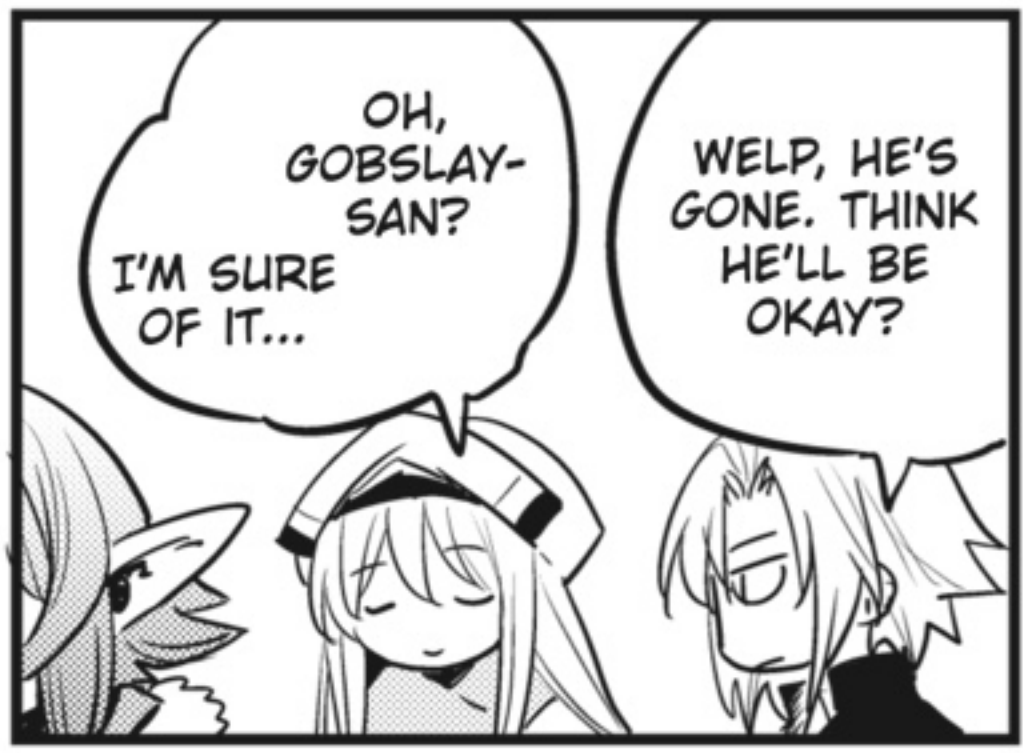


GOB SLAY-SAN

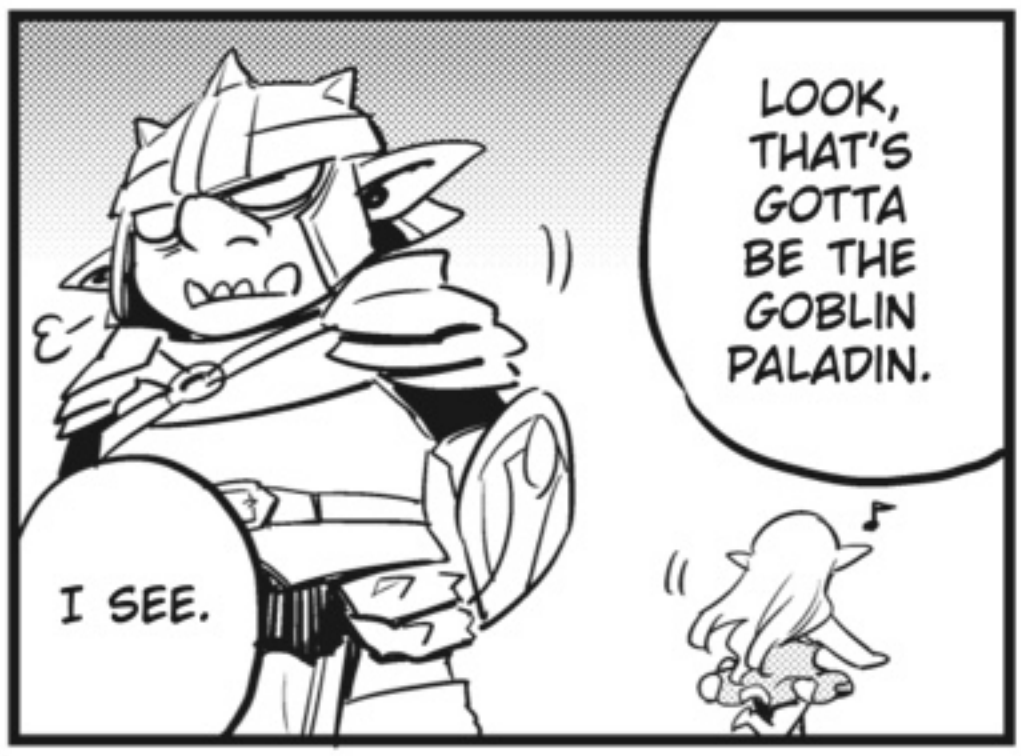


TRUST





TOUGH QUESTION



Turn to the back of the book for a short story by Kumo Kagyu!

GOBLIN SLAYER

GOBLIN SLAYER

Well, or maybe...

With a look on her face like she had come up with an especially mischievous idea, Guild Girl said, "Want to try braiding it? So it looks...as pretty as mine?"

"I'd love th—wait, what?" Priestess said, and her pose collapsed.

"Scared...? I wouldn't say... Well, maybe I was," Guild Girl said, giggling.

This colleague had not been the type to speak sharply or raise her voice, but Guild Girl would feel tense just from being in the same room with her, like her back was a little straighter than usual.

Am I finally...

...as good at this as her colleague had been? Maybe not quite? Guild Girl didn't know. She couldn't know, by herself. All she knew was that Priestess was watching her, desperately trying to imitate her, and straining to maintain the posture, to follow along. Maybe Guild Girl had looked the same way to her colleague, back then.

I sort of hope so. That would be...nice.

"Huh? What's nice?" Priestess asked, perplexed by the word that had suddenly slipped out of Guild Girl's mouth.

"Oh, it's nothing..."

The girl's long hair glistened gold as it caught the evening sun that shone through the window. It was beautiful hair. When she was little, Guild Girl had thought all her problems would be solved if only she had hair like that.

"It's just—your hair," she said.

"Yes? What about it?"

"I just thought maybe you should tie it up."

"Oh, you're... You're right. Maybe...when we're done with this pose..."

back. Then she reached the other hand around overhead, taking the fingers of the hand wrapped around her leg so as to anchor herself in that position.

"Mm... Ahhh." Guild Girl breathed in, then out, still in the same stance with her chest gracefully thrust forward. "This is...what they call...the pigeon pose."

"P-pigeon...?" Priestess asked, struggling to contort herself in such an unusual way. But despite the difficulty, her body had an adventurer's training, and soon grew more flexible and accustomed to the motions. Her bare skin, of which plenty was visible beneath her single layer of undergarments, displayed well-toned muscles and a healthy color besides. Though she had to let out a few soft grunts, she managed to maintain the posture, suggesting that her trunk was quite trained as well.

No doubt thanks to his *training.*

And her own effort. Guild Girl smiled slightly as she realized that.

"This pose is something...a more experienced colleague of mine taught me...back in the capital."

"Someone...more...experienced...?" Priestess, as she did her best to continue breathing, managed to shoot a disbelieving glance her way. It was like she couldn't imagine anyone being senior to Guild Girl. (Though perhaps Guild Girl's own efforts played some role in that impression.) "What...kind of person...was she?"

"Pretty strict, I guess..."

"Were you...scared of her?"

one with the power to bind the sun and moon together." Having just remembered her own initiation to this secret, Guild Girl made sure to imbue the words with magic by puffing out her gorgeous chest the same way the person who'd taught her had. Priestess blinked at that, though whether from confusion or fascination, Guild Girl couldn't tell.

"It's an exercise that will steady your breathing, calm your heart, and bring the two of them together."

"An...exercise?"

"Or a kind of meditation, if you prefer—not that I can use magic or miracles." Guild Girl winked, then began curling her legs, which had been gracefully stretched out on the carpet, into a pose. She started breathing slowling and steadily—now, what could this be?

I like that it's simple, but you still have the feeling that you're doing something. She realized the same thought had gone through her head the first time she did this, which she found a little funny.

"First, bend one leg like this and stretch the other one out behind you."

"Um, like...this?"

"That's right. Very good. Don't hold your breath—keep breathing slowly and deeply." After making sure Priestess, who was sitting across from her, could easily see her and copy what she was doing, Guild Girl twisted her body further. She bent the leg that was behind her, catching it with her elbow as she bent her upper body

generally didn't feel compelled to be too fastidious, but...

Thank goodness I just gave this place a quick tidying up...! She tried not to let her pride in her last-weekend self be too evident.

"All right, let's get ready." Guild Girl started taking off her outer layers, which Priestess flinched back at the sight of. Trying to look as nonchalant as possible, Guild Girl slipped out of her uniform with a rustle of cloth. "Come on, now—you too."

"Er, ah, right...!" At this urging, Priestess quickly sloughed off her vestments. It would have been possible to do this with their clothes still on, of course, but it would have wrinkled them. So this was better to do in their underclothes, though Guild Girl did feel a little ticklish as the other woman's gaze shifted over her shoulders, hips, chest, and butt.

"Are you that interested?" she asked.

"No! I mean—no, but..."

Guild Girl had only been teasing Priestess for her roving eyes, but the way she shrank back was so pitiful as to be almost comical. Priestess blushed and averted her gaze but still couldn't help herself from stealing glances in Guild Girl's direction now and then, clothes or no clothes.

I can't really blame her.

When Guild Girl had first learned about this, she'd been the same way, now that she thought about it.

"So, what I'm about to show you is a secret technique—

Besides, just think about those trendy whitening powders and lipsticks that turned out to be poisonous. As a daughter of nobility who once ran in high social circles herself, those discoveries had hit close to home. Not to mention the stories of people who had drunk a sparkling blue potion on the premise that it was good for your health, only to die from having their bodies rot away. Guild Girl didn't think that such a devout follower of the Earth Mother would get mixed up with sketchy cosmetics and downright snake oil, but...

All right—only one thing to do.

"Ugh, I can't believe it. You saw right through me. No use trying to hide it anymore."

"Wha...?" Priestess blinked, and Guild Girl placed a slim finger against the girl's lips.

"Do you have a few minutes right now?"

I'll tell you my biggest secret of all.

And then she did her best impression of Witch's portentous laugh.

§

"Good, right this way—come on in. Don't be shy."

"Th-thank you. Pardon me." Priestess made a stiff, doll-like bow of her head as Guild Girl ushered her into her personal room. The gesture had an awkward quality to it, like her body was being controlled by strings dangling above her. Guild Girl rarely had visitors, so she

the human body, so if you make an effort to do them, everything else follows naturally."

"But..." Guild Girl had tried to explain as clearly as she could, but Priestess didn't seem convinced. "I'm not, um, doing anything special either. But when I compare myself with other people, I don't think I'm very..."

Judging by Priestess's dejected whispering, she must have been fretting deeply about this, as was her wont. In Guild Girl's eyes, Priestess was just on the cusp of transforming from a child into an adult woman, like a blossom ready to open. Her slender body, toned from long days of adventuring, was starting to take on a certain supple roundness. And above all, she had that beautiful golden hair. She had nothing to worry about or envy.

Then again, it doesn't feel too bad to be included among the "other people" she's comparing herself to.

Take that witch, for example: even as her friend and a member of the same sex, Guild Girl couldn't keep her heart from fluttering at the woman's good looks. Then there was the waitress at the restaurant, who had the enviably luscious body of a padfoot. There was Female Knight, of course. There was even the high elf in Priestess's own party, who was so lithe you would swear she was a faerie.

Considering all that, Guild Girl didn't think it was at all silly for Priestess to imagine there must be some secret, and she certainly wouldn't laugh at her for it.

to blame for the red glow now covering the cheeks of this cleric of the Earth Mother.

"I don't think I do anything special..."

"That's what everyone says." Priestess sullenly puffed out her cheeks but then looked at the ground as she realized how childish she must seem.

Another "Hmm..." escaped Guild Girl's mouth as she put a finger to her cheek and tilted her head thoughtfully.

It's not like I eat anything that unusual or use any special products...

She didn't even, say, powder her hair and skin each morning and evening to make them pale and glossy, which was just the tip of the iceberg when it came to beauty regimens. In the capital, it had become popular for women to undergo phlebotomies to whiten their skin and have their back teeth pulled to make their faces appear daintier. Guild Girl had been slightly intrigued by these methods, but she didn't have the courage to undertake them herself. Less still did she want to ask a dark elf to remove a bone or two just so she could squeeze into an even tighter corset.

"It's true. And you don't need to do anything out of the ordinary—in fact, that can be bad for your body."

"Really?"

"Make sure to eat a healthy meal morning, noon, and night; get plenty of exercise; and sleep well too." Guild Girl counted off on her fingers as she offered each piece of advice. "Those three things have the most effect on

Interlude:

Of How a Healthy Body Is the Product of a Healthy Mind

– by Kumo Kagyu

"Uh, u-um, how... How can I become as pretty as you...?"

"I'm sorry?"

Guild Girl had just finished her work for the day and was about to head home, but she twisted back around in response to this unexpected question. The extra tension on her uniform pushed up and accentuated certain graceful curves, ones in which she would admit to taking some small amount of pride.

Although, when someone actually compliments me on my looks...

Well, it was embarrassing, and all the more so when the one flattering her was a certain young woman she knew quite well by now. She was far better equipped to deal with teasing comments from her colleagues or crude jokes from adventurers.

"Hmm..."

Guild Girl's voice just sort of slipped out as Priestess stared straight at her with a dead serious look in her eyes. Priestess had probably screwed up her courage in order to blurt out that question, but she soon returned to her usual shyness and began to look uncomfortable. Guild Girl knew perfectly well that the setting sun wasn't

GOBLIN SLAYER 10

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